

COUNCIL:

20 JULY 2017

ITEM 8 – STATEMENTS

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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

Building Collapse on Splott Road

Following the tragic death of an individual due to the collapse of the former Salvation Army Citadel building on Splott Road in the Adamsdown Ward, I can confirm that a joint investigation is underway led by South Wales Police and Health & Safety Executive. All interested parties, including emergency services and representatives from the Council's Building Control team, attended a site meeting that was held on Wednesday 19 July 2017 to assess the situation and I subsequently received a comprehensive briefing.

Local Government Reform Update

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM, gave an oral statement in the Senedd on Tuesday 18 July 2017 in which he confirmed that a new Local Government Bill will be introduced to the National Assembly for Wales towards the end of the second year of Assembly business (which is expected to be in June/July 2018).

The Bill will legislate for mandatory regional working between local authorities on areas such as economic development, strategic land use planning and strategic transport based on three large regions in Wales, including the Cardiff Capital Region covering South East Wales. Certain specific functions would have to be undertaken regionally, such as social services being aligned with local health board boundaries. It will also make it mandatory for local authorities to broadcast (webcast) their meetings.

The Welsh Government also published a consultation document earlier on the same day relating specifically to [electoral reform in local government in Wales](#), which considers extending voting rights to 16 & 17 year olds; changing the day on which elections are held; electronic voting and proportional representation. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 10 October 2017.

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

I attended a meeting of the Regional Cabinet on Friday 14 July 2017, which gave formal approval to proceed with investment in a Compound Semiconductor Cluster for the Cardiff Capital Region focussed around IQE, a Cardiff based company. The Regional Cabinet also agreed to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) owned jointly by the 10 Councils within the Cardiff Capital Region in order to progress the investment. This will enable the SPV to purchase, fit out and ultimately lease a building in Newport to support further investment by IQE in the Compound Semiconductor Cluster. This is expected to directly create 500 jobs, whilst supporting a wider impact of 2,000 jobs.

In addition, I introduced a report at the meeting outlining proposals to establish a new Regional Economic Growth Partnership for the city-region. Establishing this partnership was a commitment in the City Deal Heads of Terms and will provide a wider stakeholder group – including representatives from education, business, the third sector, trade unions, as well as local government – to provide an external perspective on the decisions made by the Regional Cabinet. The report was approved and we will now move to recruit a Chair and assemble the Regional Economic Growth Partnership board.

Future Car:Diff

I attended and spoke at an event hosted by Cynnal Cymru on 11 July 2017, which debated the future of the car in Cardiff. Tackling congestion and getting our transport system right is one of this administration's top priorities and the event provided an opportunity to set out Cardiff's ambitions for supporting sustainable forms of transport, including our plans to bring forward a Green Paper on Sustainable Transport in Cardiff later this year. I also emphasised the importance of achieving our target of a 50:50 modal split in all journeys made by sustainable travel and by car by 2021, rising to 60:40 by 2026. This would still mean that 40-50% of all journeys will be by car so the challenge, therefore, is to make the car as clean, green and sustainable as possible and, as a local authority, we have been developing ways of managing car use more effectively and are supporting efforts to reduce carbon consumption and air pollution in the city through the increased use of low carbon vehicles.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
19 July 2017

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EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT

Junior Apprenticeship Scheme

The first Junior Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards Ceremony at Cardiff & Vale College took place on 27 June 2017. All the Year 11 students, who followed an intensive one year programme, have a positive destination in further learning, an apprenticeship or employment.

On 4 July 2017, Cardiff & Vale College also hosted the “Play Your Part” best practice event to share highlights and learning points from the completion of the first year of the Junior Apprenticeship programme. The Assembly Member for Cardiff South & Penarth, Vaughan Gething AM, opened the event and congratulated all the partners involved in the successful Cardiff initiative, expressing a wish for all parts of Wales to become involved in promoting apprenticeships as a valuable learning pathway.

Local Authorities, Further Education Colleges and secondary schools from all parts of Wales attended the event to learn about how the programme was established in partnership with Cardiff Council, Welsh Government and Cardiff Secondary Schools. Armando De Finizio also spoke about the benefits of vocational programmes for young people and two Year 11 apprentices from Cardiff Secondary Schools spoke about their experiences.

Changes to Assessment for 2017

The Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Bill has been presented to the National Assembly for Wales and is likely to be enacted later this year. Once the Bill becomes law, the first step will be for the Welsh Government to consult on a statutory ALN Code and set timescales for implementation of the Act. As yet, there is no firm date for implementation to begin. There are therefore no changes to the SEN assessment process for September 2017.

Cardiff’s Education & Lifelong Learning directorate is working on a number of ALN Innovation projects, in partnership with the other local authorities of the Central South Consortium – Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr – to prepare for implementation of the ALNET. The projects are funded by a regional ALN Innovation grant.

School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)

SHEP/Food and Fun is a multi-agency programme providing good quality meals, nutrition skills, sports education and enrichment activities to children living in areas of social deprivation in Wales. This summer, Food and Fun will be delivered across 13 sites in Cardiff for children from 21 schools. The sites are:

- Baden Powell Primary School
- Bryn Celyn Primary School
- Lansdowne Primary School (hosting Ninian Park Primary School)
- Hywel Dda Primary School
- Meadowlane Primary School (hosting Bishop Childs Primary, Oakfield Primary, Greenway Primary, St John Lloyd Primary, Trowbridge Primary, Willowbrook Primary, Ysgol Pen Y Pil)
- Millbank Primary School
- Moorland Primary School
- Pentrebane Primary School
- Riverbank School
- Severn Primary School
- Springwood Primary School
- Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof
- Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau

The SHEP Cardiff partnership continues to support the WLGA in the delivery of SHEP across Wales and this has included the development of nutrition resources, attendance at 4 Wales regional workshops and the development of the Quality Assurance Framework. The framework is in development and will be trialled this summer in Cardiff schools in conjunction with the Healthy Schools Team. This tool will be refined and then implemented Wales wide for 2018 delivery.

SHEP Coordinators have been trained in Nutrition Skills for Life Level 2, Designated Senior Person Safeguarding and Making Every Contact Count.

Cardiff's Education Catering team also collected three awards last week:

- Catey Awards (known as 'the Oscars' of the hospitality business):
 - Health and Nutrition Award – SHEP
<https://www.thecaterer.com/articles/506292/john-williams-and-sir-terence-conran-are-honoured-at-2017-catey-awards>
- LACA Awards for Excellence:
 - Roger Davis Outstanding Achievement Award – Judith Gregory, Education Catering
 - Change4Life Award – SHEP
<http://laca.co.uk/laca-awards-excellence-2017-winners-announced>

Cardiff Commitment

The Cardiff Commitment sets out how the council, together with a wide range of public, private and third sector partners, will work together to ensure a positive destination for every young person in Cardiff after they finish school. There has been strong progress in “gearing up” to deliver the Cardiff Commitment over the last year. Cardiff Council, as one of the biggest employers in the region has made a clear commitment to increasing the number of traineeships and apprenticeships across the very diverse range of skills and specialisms in the workforce. There has been a hugely positive response from employers in the public and private Sectors to the Cardiff Commitment partnership proposal. A high-level Strategic Leadership Group, drawing on senior figures in all sectors of the local economy, has recently been formed to drive the initiative forward.

Open Your Eyes Week

Originally the brainchild of staff at Severn Primary School in Riverside, Open Your Eyes Week was first held in 2015, starting with the help and support of nearby businesses and people connected to the school. Delivered prior to transition to secondary schools, Open Your Eyes is designed to raise aspirations and help children to look ahead to things that they may not have otherwise considered. It plays an important role in helping children to maintain their enthusiasm for learning, ensuring that they go on to employment, further education or training after they leave school and take full advantage of Cardiff's modern and dynamic economy.

Using links created through the Cardiff Commitment, this year's Open Your Eyes Week saw more schools, businesses and organisations involved. During the last week of June 2017, a series of Cardiff primary schools received visits from some of the biggest names in business, arts and culture. 27 businesses and organisations from Cardiff and the wider city region visited nine primary schools in the Fitzalan cluster to speak to Year 6 children about the career opportunities available to them. Speakers included representatives from Wales Millennium Centre, Royal Air Force, Eversheds, Kier Construction and Network Rail Cardiff – to name just a few. The Council's own Tourism and Waste teams also took part.

Leaving Headteachers

The following Primary & Secondary Headteachers are retiring at the end of the current academic year:

- Peter Hodgkins – Peter Lea
- Sally Brereton – Gladstone
- Kath Keeley – The Hollies
- Robert Cooke – Ysgol Pen y Pil
- Angel Thomas – Corpus Christi
- Mike Hayes – Coed y Gof (moving on to pastures new at Estyn)
-

School Organisation

Work is continuing on existing Band A projects:

- Cardiff West Community High school has been submitted for planning and expected to be heard at the committee meeting on 16 August 2017.
- Howardian and Ysgol Glan Morfa projects have now started on site and have had turf cutting ceremonies to mark the occasion before the end of term.
- Ysgol Hamadryad has planning approval and work is due to start on site by September.
- Gabalfa and Glan Ceubal schools are due to be awarded to the contractor in the next few weeks with a start on site by September.
- Eastern High continues to progress well.

The Band B Stakeholder Reference Group has met on six occasions. The deliberations of the group will be incorporated into the needs analysis to inform planning for the Band B phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Youth Service

Refurbishment work has been carried out in the Powerhouse, Eastmoors and North Ely Youth Activity Centres. An opening of the North Ely Youth Activity Centre was held earlier this month attended by the Leader Cllr Huw Thomas and Cllr Ashley Lister, in his role as Asst Cabinet Member for Youth Services. Cllr Lister has visited Youth Activity Centres across the City, speaking with staff and young people about what work was being done to encourage participation and empower young people.

A Level and GCSE Results

There is a new suite of GCSE qualifications in Wales for Mathematics, Mathematics - Numeracy, English Language, Welsh Language, English Literature and Welsh Literature. At the same time, new rules have been introduced for reporting school performance measures. For example, in 2017 a maximum of two vocational qualifications will count for no more than 40% at the Level 2 inclusive, Level 1 and Level 2 thresholds. It will not therefore be possible to compare performance with 2016 in a particular subject or the Key Stage 4 indicator as in previous years. A Level results are due on 17th August 2017 and GCSE results are due on 24th August 2017.

Challenging Extremism

Together with the GOT-Project and 3 primary schools in Cardiff, the International School Linking team within Cardiff Council succeeded in securing Erasmus+ funding for a 3 year Challenging Extremism project in partnership with local authorities in Nuremberg and Bratislava. The project is currently at the end of its first year with a baseline assessment of attitudes and a teaching pack of 6 lessons with resources already produced for piloting in year 2. In July 2017, the Henry Jackson Society recommended that UK Government should adopt this European primary school pan-European module.

Councillor Sarah Merry

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

19 July 2017

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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

TUC 'Dying to Work' Charter

I am delighted Cardiff Council has signed the TUC's Dying to Work Charter at Works Council on 12 July 2017. This charter provides a good practice framework to ensure employees diagnosed with a terminal illness receive peace of mind and support with regard to the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families with dignity and respect. The Council is committed to providing strong levels of support and understanding to employees facing this challenging period. The Leader signed on behalf of Cardiff Council, with Trade Union colleagues and members of the Works Council present.

Procurement Strategy 2017-2020

The Council's new Procurement Strategy 2017-2020 will be published on the Council website later this month. I am pleased that this ambitious strategy sets out the increased emphasis that the Council is placing on the delivery of community benefits through Council contracts. This strategy was approved at Cabinet in March 2017. Further work is now being done on socially responsible procurement, to deepen the policy and address the aim in the Capital Ambition document to develop a Social Responsibility policy.

Living Wage City

Since the launch of the Council's Living Wage Accreditation Support Scheme for SMEs on 1 April 2017, I am pleased that 7 Cardiff based organisations have now become accredited Living Wage employers.

Employee Engagement

The Council has been selected as a finalist in the national Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD) People Management Awards – 'Best Employee Engagement Initiative' category. The CIPD awards celebrate outstanding achievement and are open to public and private organisations across the UK. This is a great achievement for the Council and, more importantly, recognises the contribution that our staff make to the delivery of Council services to the citizens of Cardiff. The winners will be announced on the 26 September 2017.

Connect to Cardiff

I was really impressed with my visit to Connect to Cardiff on 4 July 2017 and to see that the centre is still continuing to expand on the range of services it offers to our residents, most recently the booking of appointments on behalf of the Registry Office with further functions being planned to move over. The service went live in June 2017 and, in its opening month, C2C assisted over 800 customers in this area.

This is in addition to supporting the authority with short-term but high interest issues - such as the recent elections where the centre dealt with 4,125 calls about the elections calls between April and June 2017 – but also supporting long term and essential services. In the last financial year, the centre processed payments to the Council in excess of £3 million in the remit of council tax alone.

Council Website

I am pleased to report that the Council's website recently won the SOCITM's Better Connected Award for "Best Welsh Unitary" at the Connected Local Government Live. This is a great result for the council and reflects on the hard work that has been put in to keeping the site aligned with best practice. Overall, the Council successfully maintained our 3 Star Rating and missed out on a 4 star rating by a single point.

Our website performed particularly well in the Mobile Accessibility category where we scored the maximum 4 stars. The review recommended that other councils look at our website as an example of good practice and for the list of services on the home page and being free of clutter.

The Council's website becomes ever more important as more people want to quickly and efficiently access council services online. Some key data for May alone demonstrates this point

- 197,398 people visited the website accessing over 750,000 pages;
- 57% of those visits were from a mobile or tablet;
- 76% of recycling and waste orders were done online; and
- 68% of parking permits;
- In total 14,739 online payment totalling £1,498,226.

Councillor Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
19 July 2017

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

Suspension of Right to Buy Scheme in Cardiff

I am pleased to confirm that the Welsh Government has granted the Council permission to suspend the Right to Buy scheme in Cardiff for a period of five years with effect from 19 July 2017. Before the end of this period, the Council may apply to extend the suspension for a further five years. The Council currently has a housing stock of 13,459 properties, which has been reduced from 23,000 properties in 1985, largely through the Right to Buy. Demand for housing of all tenure types in the city is high and this is especially true for social housing. By protecting our remaining housing stock, we are taking a necessary step towards reducing the housing waiting list and providing good quality housing to those most in need in our city.

Fire Safety in Council Housing Blocks and Private Residential Blocks

I would like to assure you that the administration continues to monitor developments in respect of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London. We continue to liaise with the Welsh Government, the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and the Council's Emergency Management Team to ensure that we act appropriately and in a timely manner in respect of any advice and recommendations.

As mentioned in a previous statement, all 9 of the Council's high-rise blocks have robust safety measures in place and the cladding systems are different to those used at Grenfell Tower. The safety of our tenants is paramount and as a result, we continue to carry out a full review to ensure that the Council is meeting all the latest best practice in fire safety and is identifying any other action which could be taken to further minimise any risk to tenants.

As part of the response to the tragedy, Welsh Government has sought assistance from Rent Smart Wales to ensure that the private rented sector receive appropriate messages and support in relation to any fire safety concerns. On the 29th & 30th June 2017, the 80,783 landlords and agents on our database were sent information by email on the latest position in Wales and how they and their tenants should raise fire safety concerns should they have any. This demonstrates the value of having a readily available database of contact details which allows us in Wales to provide this important advice in a timely fashion.

Delivering the 1,000 New Council Homes Target

As part of our 1,000 new council homes target to be delivered over the next 5 years we are very excited about delivering at least 150 new homes through 'innovative solutions' and in doing so we are working with Welsh Government to ensure we can access their Innovative Housing Fund.

We are working up schemes to deliver units through a range of innovative methods including Shipping containers, steel frame pods and timber frame pods. All these solutions can deliver new units far quicker than through traditional methods, the timber frame pods can offer a demountable short term use for vacant sites – known as 'meanwhile use'.

I recently visited a brilliant scheme of 4 storey timber frame pods on Lewisham high street, offering 35 flats and ground floor retail/community units on a former leisure centre site. This 'meanwhile use' has ensured that the site holds a beneficial use whilst wider regeneration plans are developed. This is an approach I am exceptionally keen to follow here in Cardiff and have asked officers to fast-track options for a scheme on one of our sites

Rough Sleeper Strategy

I have recently met with my Cabinet colleague, the Cabinet Member for Investment & Development, to discuss the next steps in the implementation of the Rough Sleeper Strategy, particularly with reference to the city centre. I am pleased to say that council officers are working closely with public, third sector and business partners to consider ways to develop an effective 'alternative giving' campaign that will help and support those who experience street homelessness and assist them into accommodation and support whilst reducing the opportunity for aggressive street begging.

Our strategy makes clear that no one should have to sleep rough and the consequences for individuals in terms of life expectancy and life outcomes are desperate. The protocol for European Economic Area (EEA) nationals sleeping rough in Cardiff has been signed recently by the Police, Council and Immigration Services. This will provide an escalation route for those cases where all other intervention options have been exhausted.

I intend to report regularly on the progress made overall in the delivery of the strategy.

Sandown Court – Community Living

On 29 June 2017, I had the privilege of officially opening the Community Living scheme at Sandown Court. This scheme involved the transformation of a former sheltered complex which was tired and in poor physical condition and also did not meet the current or future needs of our residents. It now provides homes to 31 residents over the age of 60. These homes are accessible for all and enable the residents to retain their independence for longer.

Sandown Court has been completely refurbished to provide flexible, sustainable and fit for purpose, older person's accommodation which meets both the needs and expectations of older people. Helping people to stay independent in the community for as long as possible is a key commitment of the Council and good quality older person's housing is essential to achieving this. Many of the flats are wheelchair accessible with wider corridors, wet rooms, height adjustable kitchens and open-plan living spaces.

The external space has been upgraded to ensure it is easily accessible for residents, providing outdoor space that can be enjoyed and used. The communal rooms have been refurbished to provide a range of flexible spaces suitable for delivering a hub of services. These can be utilised by older people including residents in the scheme and

those in the wider community. We believe this will help to tackle social isolation and provide real support where it is needed.

Officers have worked in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the project has been designed to meet the Visibly Better Accreditation 'Platinum' standard. This is a hallmark of good practice recognised by Welsh Government and achieved by revising the services model to ensure it is needs, rather than tenure, led.

We plan to roll out the Community Living approach to our other older person's housing complexes, making better use of the communal areas and offering increased services and activities.

John Kane Court, 150 Thornhill Road

The reconfiguration of the former children's home into eight 1 and 2 bedroom flats for independent living is now complete. This is one of many council managed refurbishment schemes helping to achieve a target of delivering 1,000 new council homes over the next 5 years.

The vibrant and attractive scheme is aimed at residents over 50 and the flats have been designed to provide flexible living, enabling residents to remain in their own homes and live independently for as long as possible.

All ground floor flats are accessible and have a built-in scooter charging room. Accessible level access shower rooms have been provided and each flat benefits from a large open-plan living / dining space.

A communal room has been created to provide a flexible space suitable for delivering services for older people. This can be used by residents as well as those in the wider community. The building has been inclusively designed and is accessible for all. All entrances into the site and building have level access and are wheelchair friendly.

Again officers have worked in partnership with the RNIB and the project has been designed to meet the Visibly Better Accreditation 'Platinum' standard.

Libraries & Hubs

I am already aware of the huge benefit that Libraries and Hubs have to their communities following the success of the Grangetown Hub in my ward. However, I also had the pleasure of visiting the STAR, Ely & Llandaff North/Gabalfa Hubs on 26 May 2017. It is truly impressive to see the success that these buildings have become and this is a testament to both the staff working there and the local community utilising these buildings to their fullest.

I'd also like to personally congratulate the Council's Hub volunteers who have won a Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) Volunteer of the Year award in the digital category for their work in helping customers in the city's 12 community hubs. Volunteering is a really good way for local people to get involved in their Hub and helps us extend our services to provide even more help. Cardiff is a diverse and multicultural city and our fantastic team of volunteers mirror this diversity, speaking a total of 18 community languages so they are able to support customers in their mother tongue. This instantly puts some of the most vulnerable people within the community at ease.

Since April 2014, almost 5,000 volunteering hours have been given by 268 volunteers in our hubs and we are grateful for their time and commitment in helping the council run its services.

<http://businessnewswales.com/cardiff-hub-volunteers-win-national-volunteering-award/>

The Hub's Money Advice team has been hugely successful in helping some of the most vulnerable in Cardiff. The team, who are based in Central Library Hub and have outreach in Hubs across the city, helped individuals and families access £11,995,475 additional weekly benefit during 2016/17. As part of the budget setting process, the Council has decided to further invest in this service and now the Money Advice Outreach Team have started to provide a service from all Foodbanks across the city. This proactive approach will be able to target those harder to reach groups and I believe will have a significant impact in supporting them to engage with a range of support services. The visitor numbers to our Libraries and Hubs is truly impressive with over 3 million visitors for 2016/17. This not only puts us at the top in Wales for visitor numbers but also bucks the trend that is being seen nationally as lots of authorities are seeing fewer people year on year accessing these key services.

Tackling Extremism

There are a range of Home Office-funded projects underway that the Council has worked with partners to establish. All of these projects contribute towards preventing radicalisation and extremism:

- Upstanding Neighbourhoods – The project will deliver workshops on a range of safeguarding matters, in particular prevent-related issues. The aim is to raise awareness of key issues and give individuals the confidence to challenge extremist narratives.
- EYST 'Cardiff Positive Street Project' – The project aims to increase the understanding of young people on issues of radicalisation, through a series of workshops and mentoring activities.
- KIKIT 'Pathwayz to Recovery' – The projects aims to develop and maintain a community referral mechanism to support individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and enhance referral pathways for support.
- St Giles Trust – The project aims to provide a range of practical and family support to individuals who have been identified as radicalised, or at risk of radicalisation, and their families.

Community Cohesion

Following each of the three terrorist incidents in May and June 2017, council officers worked closely with South Wales Police to monitor local tensions and gather community intelligence regarding the local impact of these incidents.

Partners recorded no notable change in hate crime reporting or tensions following the Manchester Arena and London Bridge attacks. Following the Finsbury Park attack during the early hours of 19 June 2017, a Cardiff resident, Darren Osborne, was formally arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and the instigation of terrorism. A message from the Council was shared with networks emphasising the need for solidarity during this difficult time and inviting residents to attend the community iftar taking place outside Cardiff City Hall as a demonstration of unity.

Hate crime reporting has remained low following the identification of the suspect and South Wales Police Community Liaison Officer and the Prevent team have been conducting community engagement and reassurance. All local mosques in Cardiff were contacted following the incident and visits and patrols around places of worship have been increased to provide additional security.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
19 July 2017

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CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Waste Management

The initial recycling performance indicates that we have met our statutory recycling targets and biodegradable landfill allowance limits for a further year. I will be reviewing with the team how we make the next step changes to reach 64% by 2020, which is not far away.

I can confirm that after almost 20 years of use the Lamby Way landfill site is now closed to receiving any more waste. We have strong sustainable disposal and treatment solutions in place now.

I am pleased to announce that the initial testing of the new Household Waste Recycling Centre is going well at Lamby Way and the site was formally opened on 18th July 2017. I am now reviewing the reuse progress and the Wedal Road position with the Cabinet.

We will also be holding a public open day at Lamby Way on 28th August 2017 so you are all invited to see what we do at Lamby Way. There will also be a home composting bin sale and other sustainable activities

Neighbourhood Services

Cleansing and Enforcement Services continues to develop under Neighbourhood Services. The service met the challenges of the Champions League Final and the students leaving the city for the summer break. Work is continuing to develop with key partners increasing commercialisation and partnership working. Commercial services and community engagement with regard to cleansing and enforcement is now taking place with Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and the Cardiff Business Improvement District.

The blitz work is continuing and is currently working in the 8 inner wards and will then move to the outer wards ensuring that the city has the benefit of this deep cleanse in identified areas. Replacement of old bins, worn street name signs, sign cleansing and improvements to road markings across the city is improving the street scene and local environment.

The 'Love Where You Live' initiative continues to grow with good citizen and volunteer engagement. New volunteer groups are supporting the expansion of good work across the city working with officers.

Fly tipping continues to blight the city, especially at key locations. Officers are working to implement overt and covert cameras to capture evidence on the perpetrators to

support prosecution. This work is vital, as it is important for the Council to send a message that fly tipping will not be tolerated in Cardiff.

Flood Risk Management

The Coastal Risk Management Programme to support removal of flood risks to the East of Cardiff is progressing well with the submission and acceptance of project appraisal reports by Welsh Government. The reports are now subject to review for potential funding to progress detailed design through to construction. Although this project is to remove flood risk around Rumney, I am working with officers to ensure that the opportunity is made to deliver a vision for this area of Cardiff including improvements to the coastal path, facilitating the opportunity to continue the Eastern Bay Link to Southern Way and supporting new development.

Bereavement Services

Green Flag judging has taken place for both Cathays and Thornhill Cemeteries and initial feedback on the sites from the judges is very positive.

A ceremony took place on 20 June 2017 at Western Cemetery to mark the opening of the new Muslim burial area. This was attended by leaders from the Muslim Community as well as a number of Councillors. The area is the first phase of an area which will accommodate Muslim burials for the long term future.

The annual Baby Memorial Service took place at Thornhill on 25 June 2017, which is organised in partnership with the local SANDS group and UHW chaplaincy department. This is obviously a very sad and moving service and credit should be given to the staff involved in providing this event.

A very successful and informative open day was held at Thornhill Crematorium on Saturday 15th July 2017. Over 150 people attended and were shown around the crematorium chapels and crematory, providing an opportunity to dispel any myths around the process and answer any concerns the public may have. A number of partner organisations attended which included funeral directors, a florist, bereavement charities and the calligrapher who inscribes the book of remembrance. Various talks were also held by the Friends of Cathays Cemetery, Father Lionel Fanthorpe and a public Q&A session was also held with a panel of industry professionals.

Cardiff Dogs Home

Cardiff Dogs Home continues to grow in popularity. There were 7969 visitors to the Dogs Home in the first quarter alone and 105 dogs were rehomed during this period also. We have 1907 registered dog walking volunteers to date and induction is taking place today for another group which is expected to number 40+. Our walkers have also been very busy and, this quarter, they have already provided over 3,000 hours, numbering around 2,700 actual walks.

There are 3 Looked After young people on long term placements here at the moment, one of whom starts her apprenticeship on 10 July 2017. We have also provided 10 other work experience placements since April 2017.

Work has started on making the reception area larger and more customer friendly to include access to refreshments and toilet facilities for our visitors. Friends of the Dogs Wales have also invested in a new air conditioning unit for the stable block of kennels

where the temperatures have soared during the recent extremely warm weather and this is fantastic news for the hot dogs!

Energy Projects and Carbon Management

Recent Government data shows that Cardiff's city-wide carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have reduced by 33% since 2005, and per capita CO₂ emissions have reduced by 39% over the same time period (2015 BEIS (Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) data – data provided annually and relates to 2 years previously).

This means that the city's Covenant of Mayors target has been exceeded ahead of schedule – the city is a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors with a target of reducing per capita CO₂ emissions by 26% by 2020 (2005 baseline).

Shared Regulatory Services

The Welsh Government has issued a consultation document on the potential to change the law governing taxi and private hire licensing. The Welsh Government asserts that the law governing this industry is out of date and needs reform; they are probably right.

The Wales Act 2017 will give the Welsh Government legislative powers to change the controls exercised over taxis and private hire vehicles. The consultation proposes that national standards should be introduced, but continue to be administered by local authorities. Councils should be able to set additional requirements to meet the needs of the local area. That taxis should be able to work across council areas, but giving council officers enhanced enforcement powers to deal with non-conformity.

We know that taxis and private hire vehicles play a vital role in transporting people across the City. We know the industry is in a state of flux with the advent of app based operators like Uber transforming the way people use private hire vehicles.

The consultation seeks views on specific proposals. However, the Council will provide a commentary on the challenges facing a modern capital city and suggest other measures that might promote a better connected and more sustainable city. The potential to develop proposals that will improve things like air quality and the local economy are matters that Council express a view upon.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
19 July 2017

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATEMENT

I am delighted to be taking up a new challenge as the Cabinet Member for Children and Families in the context of a new and exciting programme of priorities and commitments.

Already I have been able to see some examples of the complex work that social workers undertake on a daily basis with individual children and their families and I fully expect to become aware of circumstances that people in our community are facing and that rarely reach the everyday awareness of most of us.

I have already become conscious of the serious responsibilities that come with acting as the lead corporate parent for over 700 children, many of whom have had to come to terms with very difficult experiences. They need our help in this and it is an obligation on the council as a whole. Only by embracing this challenge across the council, can these children grow and thrive into healthy, well-educated adults who are well placed to contribute to the life of the city. So one of my first priorities is to understand what they need as fully as I can, by getting out and meeting staff and where possible children and young people.

I am pleased to have inherited a Children's Social Services function that has been transformed from the position we found it to be in, some 4 plus years ago. What was a failing and potentially unsafe and inward looking service, characterised by low morale, is now operating as a modernised, forward looking and positive operation, with a strengthening external reputation.

Nevertheless, the challenges remain very significant. In keeping with the national picture across England and Wales, demand appears to be rising relentlessly with continued and significant growth in the number of children in compulsory court proceedings to protect them from harm and a concomitant rise in the number entering our care. It has to be a priority to keep a close eye on how well the service is able to absorb this demand and keep children safe.

I am acutely aware that alongside this responsibility, these pressures are also causing a significant strain on our budgets and we must do everything to ensure that we enhance prevention and maximise efficiency. In this context, I am reassured to see that the major strategic initiatives that were introduced by my predecessor, are coming on stream and beginning to embed as part of an integrated strategic approach, including:

- **Signs of Safety** – the new national best practice model for social work with families.

- **Adolescent Resource Centre** – new centre opening in July designed to keep young people at home and based on national best practice.
- **“Not in Our City, Not to Our Children”** – the Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy continues to go from strength to strength with a new permanent team being established during the next few months.
- **Disability Futures Programme** – a ground breaking integrated regional strategy, led by Cardiff and designed to significantly improve services to disabled children and adults.
- **National Autism Service** – Cardiff is leading for the region as one the first regions to establish this integrated social services, education and health service based on a national model.
- **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** – now entering its second year of operation, we can see interagency working has significantly improved, leading to more effective and timely joint intervention where risk is identified.
- **Early Help Front Door** – a new service designed to strengthen our preventative capacity is now being progressed as part of the Families First funding programme.
- **Families First** – one of my first acts will be to steer a set of recommendations through Cabinet to endorse a new direction of travel with regard to the commissioning of Families First. This will provide the opportunity to harness Families First more effectively towards a focused preventative agenda.

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member (Children & Families)
19 July 2017

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2017

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STATEMENT

I am pleased to be in a position to continue to drive forward the dedicated agenda of improving Social Care, Health & Well-being for Cardiff. The shape of the new Cabinet portfolio enables me to focus attention on the complexities of Adult Social Services in its own right without losing the important and strong connections already well established between Housing and Adult Social Services. In the increasingly important regional agenda with Health, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other partners, I'm also able to offer consistency of direction in my continued role as chair of the Regional Partnership Board for another term.

Preventative Services

Preventative Services is the partnership between the Council's Independent Living Services (ILS) and Health and Adult Social Services, through the provision of information, advice and assistance. Over the past year, the ILS completed 3,846 visits identifying 1,969 alternative solutions for people, which included £2.98 million in extra income for individuals. The net impact of the Preventative Services agenda has resulted in a plateau of numbers of older people receiving social care in Cardiff. The number of people receiving adult social services in the form of either domiciliary care or direct payments is at the same level as it was 3 years ago, despite a significant increase in the over 65 population in Cardiff.

Day Opportunities for Older People

I am delighted to be able to announce the imminent re-opening of a newly refurbished Day Centre for Older People at Minehead Road, Llanrumney in early August. The centre has undergone a substantial refurbishment programme with significant structural work, including new windows and lighting, and the installation of a wet room and new toilet facilities. Substantial redecoration and new furniture, including a secure outside area, offers a really welcoming environment for individual users and staff. Services that are driven by modern care standards will now be delivered in a modern environment that is much closer to the needs of today's population. The re-designed centre will now incorporate features which make it a dementia friendly, sensory loss aware environment, with the number of centre users increased by up to 25 people per day.

I would like to extend my thanks to officers from Housing and Communities and from Social Services who have made the benefits of modernisation a reality, and to the centre's users and their families for their patience throughout the programme of works.

Direct Payments

Direct Payments are an essential tool which enables councils to put control into the hands of individuals themselves who require care and support, or into the hands of their carers on their behalf. It does this by providing an individual, or their carer, with

money to procure a service or employ a personal assistant or agency. Most people wishing to have more control and choice by using Direct Payments need the support of an effective service to help them manage an account employ a personal assistant or plan support arrangements.

This support is provided by the Council through a Direct Payments Support Service commissioned from a third party. Given the legal requirement to periodically re-commission a service of this scale and value, the Council conducted a procurement tender process and awarded the contract for Direct Payment Support Services to Dewis Centre of Independent Living, with effect from the end of July. The re-commissioning process provided a good opportunity to strengthen and further improve the Direct Payments offer in light of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, which will bring benefits to over 824 adults and children.

The service will offer enhanced control and flexibility over when individual care is provided; the exact nature of that care; who will care for them, and importantly the standards and quality of that care. We expect the new service to offer better value for money, greater consistency of support, and better transparency in terms of monitoring quality and outcomes.

'GoodGym' – A New Dementia Initiative Combatting Social Isolation

At the request of Councillor Bradbury and myself, the Director of Social Services facilitated the introduction of an exciting new scheme to Cardiff – 'GoodGym'. Working with key health partners, this scheme is a first for Wales having already been operating in 13 areas across the UK. The scheme launched in Cardiff on 23rd May. This innovative scheme combines the interests of runners in their own health and fitness, with the interests of older people who might benefit from assistance with small tasks. GoodGym runners are paired with an isolated older person and commit to a weekly social visit and/or help with one-off household tasks. This GoodGym befriending scheme has been proven to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing.

With their unique approach to building community cohesion, members of [GoodGym group in Cardiff](#), promote fitness and reduce social isolation by stopping off on their runs to do physical tasks for community organisations and to support isolated older people with weekly social visits and one-off tasks. The Integrated Care Fund has provided the small start-up fund but the scheme is based on membership subscriptions, and once fully established will be self-sufficient. The group meets every Tuesday at 6:15pm, in the foyer of the Yr Hen Lyfrgell (The Old Library) in the city centre, before heading off for a 4km run and completion of individual tasks.

Asylum and Refugee Services

The Asylum Rights Programme is a new, Welsh Government funded pan-Wales project which aims to promote and ensure the rights of people seeking asylum and living in Wales. Specifically for Cardiff, the project will provide a caseworker at the Welsh Refugee Council's Cardiff office to provide specialist advice on asylum support, housing, health, social services, education, employment, finance, bullying, hate crime, discrimination and destitution. In addition to this, Asylum Justice will also provide a legal caseworker to provide specialist legal advice and representation to asylum seekers who do not qualify for legal aid.

Councillor Susan Elsmore

Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being

19 July 2017

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2017

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Ely Bridge

In May, we saw the installation of a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Ely. The bridge forms part of a traffic-free cycling link which gets cyclists to Cowbridge Road East from Riverside Terrace and will also connect to the Ely Trail which will follow a traffic-free route along the river through the Ely Mill housing site. Some video dramatic footage of the bridge being lifted into place appeared in Wales Online.

20mph Zones

Progress on implementing the first of the new 20mph limit areas is well underway with the initial areas of the Riverside and Canton scheme being installed on street. The completion of the Riverside and Canton scheme will act as a catalyst for the preparation of the next areas identified as part of a wider strategic roll out of 20mph limits across the city.

Street Lighting

The work to deliver LED street lighting on the strategic work network is progressing well and the project is over 50% complete with 7,400 of the 13,600 lanterns replaced. The central management allowing officers to monitor the lights and any lamp failures this will support improvements in effective and efficient maintenance. Moving forward, I have asked officers to look at the provision of LED lighting in the City Centre and in underpasses to make further improvements. Officers are also commencing work to look at LED street lighting in residential streets. Radyr will be a pilot area for the residential street lighting to support the business case for LED residential lighting across Cardiff.

Highway Maintenance

The implementation of 3,800 square metres of patching has taken place this financial year. This represents approximately 20% of this year's programme supported by a £1M budget. Reconstruction of failed roads in this financial year has taken place in Ely, Cyncoed, Rumney, Penylan and Whitchurch. Although, this work can be disruptive due to the need to close roads to reconstruct it is vital that this work takes place to ensure our road network is safe for road users.

**Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member (Strategic Planning & Transport)
19 July 2017**

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2017

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Tesco Contact Centre Closure

Member will recall that at the last meeting of the County Council, the Leader referred to the extremely disappointing announcement by Tesco to close its Cardiff based contact centre which will lead to some 1100 job losses.

The Council will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure has set up a “Tesco Taskforce” to support those affected to help them find alternative employment. I can confirm that, at the request of the Cabinet Secretary, I have agreed for a member of the Investment & Development executive team to join the Taskforce to help ensure the Council works closely with Welsh Government and other partner organisations to minimise the impact of the Tesco decision on local families.

Inward Investment Opportunities

The County Council will agree that the Tesco announcement reminds us of the need to be relentless in our mission to create and secure jobs in this capital city. Not all of those employed at the contact centre live in Cardiff but like many who live across the city region and beyond, some of them rely on Cardiff for their employment.

I can confirm that, since the County Council elections on 4 May 2017, I have received approaches from a number of potential new inward investors who have expressed an interest in locating their business activity in Cardiff, a number of which appear to have serious potential. Clearly it is early days, but I hope to be able to make announcements shortly confirming new jobs for the city. I am minded to make reference to this possibility today in the event that any announcements are made during the summer recess.

Cardiff Central Square & Bus Station Development

County Councillors will be aware that a joint meeting of the Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees met on 18 July 2017 to conduct a pre-decision scrutiny of significant changes to the development proposals at Central Square designed to progress the earliest possible delivery of the bus station facility. A report will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 27 July 2017 which, amongst other things, will propose a relaxation of certain previously imposed planning constraints. The changes will necessitate a new planning application which will be progressed at an early date.

I can inform County Councillors that I have received correspondence from the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee outlining the views expressed at the meeting and the

meeting's recommendations. I am grateful to the Chair and I shall respond appropriately in due course.

With regard to the wider Central Square development, I can report that we continue to make progress. Following the County Council elections, I met informally with the Secretary of State for Wales to explore further the potential for UK Government involvement in the development. As a result of those discussions, I hope for there to be a positive announcement at an early date.

I was encouraged by the Secretary of State's commitment to the overall project and his interest in related developments and I look forward to working with him to progress these matters during the period going forward.

Taken together, these developments will provide further opportunities for Cardiff residents and others across the city region and I will take a report to Cabinet in the near future providing further details.

Councillor Russell Goodway
Cabinet Member for Investment and Development
19 July 2017

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2017

CULTURE AND LEISURE STATEMENT

Parks

I am delighted to confirm that the Council has been notified that following an independent assessment earlier in the year it has retained Green Flag status for eight of its parks and green spaces, these being Victoria Park, Roath Park, Bute Park, Parc Cefn Onn, Grange Gardens, Rumney Hill Gardens, Flat Holm Island and Cardiff Bay Barrage. Furthermore, an additional Green Flag has been awarded for the first time, for the Cardiff Bay Wetlands. These announcements underline the Council's commitment to sustaining the quality of provision.

This administration is also committed to creating more opportunities for Apprenticeships and I am very pleased to announcement that the recruitment process has commenced for two new schemes within the Parks Service. The first scheme, a three year Arboricultural Apprenticeship, providing two opportunities and whereby participants will receive a comprehensive program of practical training supplemented by day and block release studies leading to the attainment of recognised qualifications in Arboriculture. The second new scheme, offering one opportunity over a four-year term sees the introduction of a Playground Management Apprenticeship with the participants also undergoing a comprehensive programme of practical training and working towards the qualification of an Internationally Registered Playground Inspector. I anticipate reporting further development in respect of further apprenticeship opportunities to Council following the recess.

Cardiff Harbour Authority

Following an external audit by the British Standards Institute, I am pleased to announce that the Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) has been successful in attaining the globally recognised ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management Standard. This accreditation recognises and provides assurances in respect of the management systems employed by CHA for operations/functions including dredging, water quality monitoring, waste disposal, saline intrusion monitoring and pollution response.

Events

The annual Tafwyl Welsh arts and culture event held earlier in the month in Llandaff Fields proved to be a resounding success with over 30,000 attending over the two-day period. The event organisers were delighted with the outcomes and indeed the support that they received from the Council in providing the Fields as an alternative to Cardiff Castle owing to the impact of the Champions League Final.

Sports Development

Following changes made to the management of Community Chest Grants there has been a significant rise of applications for funding. Each of the six area Neighbourhood Sports Boards have control of an allocation for their locality and are increasingly proactive in targeting funding where it is most needed, and in particular areas of deprivation and under representation such as women, girls and BME.

It is pleasing to note that for the third year running we are seeing a significant increase in participation, in the region of 20%, from schools for the Cardiff Games and with a broader range of sports on offer. As a result, more children are now taking part in sport in after school time, representing their schools at the games and schools participating are providing very positive feedback.

The two new 3G pitches located in Trelai Park and the Marl, funded through the Welsh Government's Capital Loan Scheme, are in full operation which is resulting in much stronger engagement from the local community and clubs, providing both structured and informal activity.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
19 July 2017