

COUNCIL, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JONES-PRITCHARD</u></p> <p>Does the Council maintain a register of “Changing Places Public WCs” in Cardiff, which is easily accessed by those who need the information, recording how many there are and where they are located? If this does not exist, can one be provided?</p> <p>A Changing Places WC enables people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis who often need extra equipment and space, to allow them to use toilets safely and comfortably, often needing the help of a carer.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The issue of accessible public conveniences in Cardiff, including Changing Places specification toilets, is one that we are keen to address in line with the requirements of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.</p> <p>Officers are currently developing a Public Conveniences Strategy, including a growing list of accessible public conveniences in the city that will not only include our own Council facilities, but also those of our partners. The list, which is still under development, will be published in accordance with the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and will provide a resource for the city’s residents and visitors, especially those with a range of complexed needs and disabilities.</p> <p>The list will be published not only on the Council’s website, but will also be accessible through a range of existing toilet finder apps, as well as via the dedicated list of Changing Places toilets published on the Toilet Map website at: http://changingplaces.uktoiletmap.org/find?toiletLocation=cardiff</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>Plans to dump mud from Hinkley Point off Cardiff Bay were recently delayed. Can the Council provide the reasons for this delay; detail what correspondence it has had with any relevant authorities and agencies to gain assurance about the safety of this procedure, once it</p>

does take place; and state the reasons why it remains 100% certain that this 'dumping' does not pose a risk to public health?

Reply

This is a matter for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as the regulating Authority for this process.

Statements issued by NRW have advised that the reason for the delay in the dredging works and disposal by the Marine Licence Holder, NNB Genco, was due to external constraints, but I understand that the disposal commenced subsequently on 10th September 2018.

Officers from the Authority have previously contacted NRW following public concerns which have been raised about the process and discussed the basis on which the Marine Licence was granted. The Leader of the Council has also met with the Welsh Government Minister for Environment and representatives from both NRW and EDF to discuss this matter and to seek assurances about the process, including the sufficiency of the testing of the sediment at Hinkley Point.

In relation to any risks to public health, NRW has confirmed that the sediment has been tested independently by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), and the results scrutinised by nuclear and public health experts, all working to international standards as defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

NRW is confident that these experts have given them the right advice and the disposal of the sediment at the Cardiff Grounds site in the Severn Estuary poses no risk to people or the environment. This was further confirmed in a letter sent last week to the Leader of the Council by the Acting Chair of NRW.

W3

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

A number of residents in Pontprennau and Old St Mellons are disappointed that after many months being promised the installation of monitored CCTV to gather information on flytippers there has been no progress. How many successful flytipping prosecutions have there been in the last 6 years in Cardiff?

For transparency could you also provide the total cost of clearing up flytipping in the last six years?

Reply

I'm not aware of any such promises being made and I provided you with an update in reply to a previous Written Question on the use of CCTV to support enforcement back in July 2018.

From April 2012 to August 2018, there were 18 successful fly-tipping prosecutions.

The enforcement team has also investigated a large amount of fly-tipping cases where the fly-tipper was not identified, but the person whose waste was fly-tipped has paid all removal and tipping costs instead of going to Court and being prosecuted under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Household Duty of Care). As they paid all costs, it would not be in the public interest to prosecute.

The National Assembly for Wales approved the Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2017 in late October last year, which inserted new provisions into the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Welsh local authorities are now able to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £400 and since 1st August 2018, we have issued 19 FPNs for fly-tipping offences.

With regard to costs, we do not hold this information in this format. There is a central budget for legal costs and cleansing services, which includes resources allocated to fly-tipping removal. I can advise that there are three teams mainly dedicated to fly-tipping removal, although they may, on occasion, undertake other cleansing activities. In addition, other cleansing and enforcement officers also remove fly-tipping when required. As such, it is not possible to provide an exact breakdown of costs as the cost of employees, vehicles, equipment, PPE, and waste disposal are recorded centrally, rather than allocated to this specific activity.

W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

What is the advice to households regarding the recycling of black plastic food containers? Green bag or black bag?

Reply

The advice would be for residents to place them in the green recycling bags. The market can be more difficult for black plastics, but these items are currently being collected for recycling trials.

W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER</u></p> <p>What advice will be given to participants in the trial glass recycling scheme regarding glass bottles with fixed plastic pourers attached and those with aluminium collars such as wine bottles?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Residents are encouraged to remove as much non-glass items as possible, such as lids, corks and plastic wraps. If they cannot be removed, then residents can still place the glass item in the caddy.</p> <p>The reprocessors do accept a small percentage of contamination (e.g. aluminium collars, labels), but we would like residents to work with us to ensure that any contamination is minimised as much as possible.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>Since passing the motion on single use plastics back in March this year, can the council outline what steps, if any, have been taken to reduce the amount of single use plastics the council use?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Cabinet is due to consider its response to the motion, which includes a detailed policy and action plan, in November 2018. This will build on the significant work that has already taken place over the last 12 months.</p>
W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Walsall Council recently announced that it will provide a skip in each of its 20 wards for one day a week, so residents can dispose of bulky waste. The reason given for this policy is to tackle fly-tipping. If this policy is proven to be successfully in Walsall, will this council consider doing the same?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We will consider similar schemes if they are proven to be successful.</p> <p>The Council used to provide a community skip service, but this was removed due to misuse by businesses and the lack of recycling. Since</p>

	<p>the service was removed, fly-tipping levels across the city have actually declined.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that England has a different statutory recycling and funding position to Wales, so any scheme would have to be reviewed specifically in a Welsh context.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>I have had several complaints during the summer regarding failed waste collections and non-existent assisted lifts. Residents have complained via C2C on multiple occasions but end up coming to me to get their bins collected. To these residents, it doesn't matter that the vast majority of collections are carried out successfully; every percentage not carried out correctly represents real residents who have experienced inconvenience at best and distress at worst, especially where they are disabled and/or experiencing difficulties in their personal lives. What does the council have to say to these residents?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I would say sorry to those residents on behalf of the Council – no missed collection is acceptable.</p> <p>I would also assure them that we are working hard to reduce any service failures and the collection teams are focused on reducing missed collections.</p> <p>We have just signed off a new collections fleet, so we should have less vehicle breakdowns. We have also invested in new in-cab technology to improve collection round data, which is currently being implemented.</p>

CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Roath Park Lake is a prime attraction in Cardiff. However, over the recent years, the park has become more and more a sight of neglect. The flower gardens don't have the flowers, overgrown hedges, a lighthouse that is in desperate need of a lick of paint and blue algae in the lake leading the lake to be out of bound throughout the summer period (peak tourist time) and list goes on. I have on several occasions contacted council officers and asked for these matters to be addressed. It is a huge disappointment that every time it has been the case that there is no budget to do this. The lack of investment in our parks will cost us greatly environmentally, health-wise and economically. How will the council ensure that Roath Park and its Lake returns to its old glory and remains open and accessible for all people throughout the year?

Reply

I would agree that Roath Park is a prime attraction and, notwithstanding the financial pressures faced by the Council, I am committed to ensuring that it remains a place that residents of, and visitors to, our city can enjoy.

I believe that your reference to the flower gardens relates to the rose gardens; however, it is not the case that the gardens are empty. Within the rose gardens, there are a total of 63 flower beds and the roses in four of these beds have been stripped out in preparation for the planting of new varieties over the autumn/winter period.

In terms of the hedges at the perimeter of the park, which I believe that you are referring to, these are scheduled for the annual cut next month.

Next month will also see the start of the annual exercise of lowering the lake level followed by the cutting back and clearance of the perimeter vegetation. During this time, the vegetation at the base of the lighthouse will also be cleared and the lighthouse will be power washed.

All of the works above works are planned and budgeted for.

With regard to the Blue-Green Algae in the lake, this is a natural occurrence and there are no preventative measures that the Council

is able to take. Natural Resources Wales, as the regulatory body, will determine when the lake may be used again for recreational purposes.

I really don't believe that Roath Park is being neglected or, indeed, has lost its glory. The park remains accessible, is enjoyed by many residents and visitors and, this year, maintained its Green Flag status – an independently assessed quality standard for parks that is recognised worldwide – for the sixteenth consecutive year.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What progress has there been in identifying the medium of the education provision of new LDP school developments?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council expects to bring forward proposals for new school provision in the North West and North East of Cardiff early in the New Year.</p> <p>The Council is committed to consulting on the establishment of new Welsh-medium schools on the LDP sites and is identifying the most appropriate opportunities to stimulate demand for Welsh-medium education to ensure that we achieve the targets set out in the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.</p> <p>However, care must be taken not to destabilise existing schools in closest proximity to the sites, including Ysgol Coed Y Gof in Pentrebane and Ysgol Pen Y Groes in Pentwyn, each of which has surplus places available at present.</p> <p>The Council is engaging with partners in the Welsh Education Forum to consider how the most recent pupil preference data for pupils entering school this term supports proposed new provision.</p> <p>The new schools on the LDP strategic sites and expansion of existing schools in established communities will play a significant role in how the Council makes progress towards achieving the targets set for pupils enrolled in Welsh-medium education in Cardiff.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>When withdrawing free school transport provision, what analysis does the council make of home to school route safety in determining whether it is safe to withdraw transport provision?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council annually assesses each pupils entitlement to free home to school transport via the shortest available walking route from the pupils home address to their nearest appropriate available school.</p>

	<p>The shortest available safe walking route used in the assessment can vary from year to year due to new network connections being installed which may make a different route available and, similarly, connections being removed which will mean that a route is unavailable.</p> <p>All routes used in the assessment comply with the Learner Travel Wales guidelines on what routes can be classed as an available safe walking route.</p>
W12	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Is the council aware of or monitoring if any Cardiff schools have received anti-LGBT or transphobic educational materials like those issued by the Transgender Trend action group in England?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is not aware that any Cardiff schools have received any such materials.</p>
W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the council issue guidance to all Local Authority (and non-Local Authority) maintained schools prohibiting the use, distribution and promotion of anti-LGBT materials?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We have given clear guidance that we expect our schools to be inclusive and supportive to all their pupils and are encouraging them to become Rights Respecting Schools.</p>
W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>Cyncoed and Lakeside is a popular family area and many parents buy/rent properties in this expensive residential area to ensure their children attend the popular, excellent achieving schools in the area. They see their financial spend as an investment for a better future of their children. However, every year, many of these parents are disappointed that their son/daughter doesn't get a place in their local primary or secondary school. What are the council's plans to ensure</p>

that children in Cyncoed and Lakeside do have a space at their local school in the area?

Reply

All children across the city Cardiff deserve the right to attend a good school and to receive a good education, irrespective of where they live and how much their parents pay for their homes.

The admission arrangements for all schools in Cardiff, including those in Cyncoed and Lakeside, are consulted on annually.

All children resident in Cyncoed and Lakeside who applied for admission to Cardiff High School this year, at the appropriate time, were offered places at the school if this was their preference. You will be aware that the Council has included the expansion of Cardiff High School within its Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.

Although Lakeside Primary School and Rhydypenau Primary School were oversubscribed this year, all pupils within their catchment area were offered a place at their catchment area school or at an alternative local school no more than 1.3 miles away.

There are no plans to expand Lakeside or Rhydypenau Primary Schools, nor any need to, whilst there are surplus places available locally. The supply of school places and catchment areas are being kept constantly under review.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W15	<p><u>FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE QUESTION</u></p> <p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>In July, I wrote to officers to ask whether the council had adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-semitism. The answer I received from Member Services was: 'I have been informed by the Equalities Team that Cardiff Council have not formally adopted this definition of antisemitism.' In light of national debates over the summer, has further thought been given to this matter and will the Council now move towards a formal adoption of the IHRA's full definition of anti-semitism?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Cardiff Council is committed to equality and diversity as both an employer and provider of services. The Council is opposed to discrimination in all its forms, including Anti-Semitism, as is made clear within our Equal Opportunities Policy Statement.</p> <p>There is no formal process to adopt best practice and guidance that inform policies such as this – policies are reviewed periodically to take account of legislation and best practice but, in general, do not refer specifically to every example of best practice.</p> <p>The IHRA working definition of Anti-Semitism reflects best practice and has already been adopted by both the UK and Welsh Governments. The First Minister also confirmed in a Written Statement in June last year that the four police forces in Wales are already using the definition. Officers have therefore confirmed to me that this definition would also be used by the Council if we needed to consider any complaint of Anti-Semitism.</p> <p>I welcome this, as I view the IHRA definition and associated examples as best practice. I would also be happy to discuss this further with you if you have any questions or queries.</p>
W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>The 2018/19 budget, approved by the Labour Administration includes borrowing of around £300m with much of this earmarked for school improvement. There have been concerns that some of the Council's</p>

approved contractors are not delivering value for money. What steps are being taken to ensure small and medium size businesses in Cardiff are given the opportunity to have easy access to tendering opportunities?

Reply

The Council continues to take steps to improve awareness among SMEs of procurement opportunities and bidding for Council work. These include:

- The 'Selling to Cardiff Council' guide, which is very much targeted at SMEs and aims to help potential suppliers and contractors understand how the Council buys goods, services and works. The aim is to increase SMEs chances of finding out about opportunities and bidding for work. It also signposts organisations to organisations offering further support such as the Business Wales Tendering Services.
- Work to encourage all businesses that want to supply the Council with goods, services or works to register on PROACTIS, the Council's e-tendering portal and Sell2Wales the national procurement website for Wales. By registering on these websites, organisations will be automatically notified of tendering opportunities for the product categories they have registered against. It takes an organisation under 10 minutes to register on PROACTIS.
- Updating of the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Procurement Rules in July 2018. They now include the requirement to advertise opportunities for goods or services above £25,000 and works above £75,000 to be advertised on PROACTIS. Opportunities above European Tender thresholds (£181,302 for goods or services and above £4,551,413 for works) to be advertised on Sell2Wales.
- Organising 'meet the buyer' events to make the market aware of forthcoming procurement opportunities. These are advertised to organisations registered on PROACTIS. On major contracts, such as the school improvement programme, the main contractor will also hold 'meet the buyer' events to make the SME market aware of the opportunities to bid for sub-contracting opportunities.

- In addition, on major tenders, we generally encourage collaborative bids and/or will ensure that some of the lots within a tender provide direct opportunities for SMEs.

Our updated Contract Standing Orders and Procurement Rules now mandate that the Council asks for community benefits to be delivered on all new contracts above £1million and encourages their delivery on all other contracts. The school improvement programme has already delivered significant community benefits.

In respect of the schools funding, and by way of clarification, in November 2017, the Council indicatively secured £284 million under Band B of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools, programme (2019-2024). The Band B programme funding is to address sufficiency of demand and address the condition and maintenance backlog. This will be the largest 21st Century Schools programme in Wales and the single biggest capital investment to date in education infrastructure.

Band B investment will include renovation, extension and renewal via new builds across the educational estate over a 4-year pipeline of works. These works will be commissioned via the SEWSCAP (South East Wales Schools and Public Buildings) Framework, which is hosted by our Commissioning and Procurement team on behalf of 16 Local Authorities, including Cardiff. This framework supports localism via the lotting of projects by spend value and through prime contractors signing up to the Council's Socially Responsible Procurement Policy. This looks to develop training and employment opportunities across construction; ethical employment; promotion of modern methods of construction and sustainability in order to address capability and capacity of local supply chains across the Cardiff Capital Region.

In terms of building maintenance, the Council's Property Services team within the Economic Development directorate has responsibility for this area, utilising a range of arrangements for commissioning works and services from third party contractors, of which a number are local SMEs.

The current Non Domestic Building Maintenance framework is currently being re-procured and provides access to SMEs in the shape of lower value lots, which means that there is a lower business turnover threshold for suppliers to meet. This should provide opportunities for local suppliers and SMEs. Performance management is critical to the ongoing success of the Council's in-house Property Services Direct Labour team and contractors will also need to demonstrate they are competent in managing health and safety

	<p>capacity issues, customer service and performance management. This will be monitored by the Council's team.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>How many professional estimators does the Council employ to ensure that quotes and tenders for works and services, submitted by approved contractors represent value for money?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Projects Design and Development, which is part of the Economic Development Directorate, has a team of in-house quantity surveyors who assist in the preparation of tenders and the review of contractors' tender submissions.</p> <p>The team consists of a chartered Quantity Surveying Manager (RICS), Contracts Manager, two Senior Quantity Surveyors and a Graduate Quantity Surveyor. In-house professional services are also supplemented, when required, with expertise procured via the National Procurement Service Professional Services framework to accommodate peaks in workload, therefore ensuring that tenders are reviewed in the best interests of the Council.</p> <p>In addition, there is also an in-house team of quantity surveyors and estimators within Building Services who routinely check and review small scale contracted works to ensure value for money for the Council.</p>
W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>Budget reports indicate that the Education Directorate is forecast to overspend by £100,000s this year. The creation of more senior managers whilst at the same time cutting at the front line sends entirely the wrong message to not only our frontline officers and our service users but also the Cardiff taxpayer. Would you agree with me that the appointment of yet another Assistant Director at a cost of £83k per year, plus pension contributions is an insult to frontline officers who are being asked to consider voluntary redundancy and will you therefore commit to asking the Cabinet, of which you are a member, to reverse this decision?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p>

	<p>The report to Cabinet on 12 July 2018 set out clearly the background and rationale for this fixed term post, to coordinate delivery of building projects worth hundreds of millions of pounds. In view of the size and scope of the Council's school development programme, as outlined in that and a number of previous reports, the Cabinet took a considered view that the creation of a new, fixed term post of Programme Director was both warranted and prudent. I will therefore not be asking to Cabinet to reverse this decision.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Webcasting is currently used for some, but not all, council committee meetings. In the interest of transparency and openness, will the council commit to webcasting all council committee meetings at the earliest opportunity?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There is currently no requirement on local authorities to webcast their meetings, but the Welsh Government has encouraged councils to webcast some or all of their meetings in the interests of public engagement and transparency. However, it is not appropriate to broadcast all meetings of the Council. Some regulatory and other meetings are not open to the public and therefore cannot be webcast.</p> <p>The Council is committed to promoting local democracy and facilitating public participation. In 2013/14, the Welsh Government provided funding of £40,000 to each council in Wales to support the broadcasting of meetings and the promotion of democracy and engagement in local government. We currently pay for a webcasting facility, which enables 100 hours of meetings to be broadcast during the current financial year. All Council, Planning Committee and a number of Scrutiny Committee meetings have already been webcast during this period.</p> <p>The current level of 'views' of these webcasts is not as high as would be hoped. Consideration is being given to prioritising the available hours to maximise viewer engagement and achieve value for money from the provision of the webcasting facility. Additional work has been undertaken to publish webcasts on Facebook Live, which has generated a significant number of views (e.g. 926 views for the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 September 2018).</p> <p>In addition, opportunities that will assist this Council to broadcast a significant number of its meetings within available budgets are being</p>

	<p>investigated. These include the provision of additional funding from the Welsh Government and identifying uses of the broadcasting facilities, which would generate some income to offset the overall cost of broadcasting public meetings.</p> <p>Innovative methods of providing cost-effective broadcasts in the future are also being considered as part of the forthcoming procurement of broadcasting facilities for 2019/20.</p>
W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>Have any of the delegations to either the Chief Executive or the Corporate Director Resources contained in the recommendations of the budget strategy report that was agreed at the July 2018 council meeting been used to date, and if so, can you please provide details of any decisions taken as a result of using these delegations?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>No, none of the delegations have been used at this stage.</p>

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What are the terms of and aims of Cardiff BID's decision to fund and recruit two Police Constables from South Wales Police and what involvement has Cardiff Council had in this decision?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The decision to provide funding for two Police officers, employed by South Wales Police, for a 3-year period was made in May 2018 by the FOR Cardiff Board of Directors, which includes representation by the private sector, South Wales Police, Cardiff Council and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The decision by FOR Cardiff followed research into the effectiveness of similar initiatives in Liverpool and Sheffield where Business Improvement Districts have funded Police Officers and feedback has been very positive. It also followed an annual survey of levy paying businesses within the Cardiff Business Improvement District area in March 2018, which found that helping the homeless, dealing with anti-social behaviour and reducing crime were among the top priorities that they wanted FOR Cardiff to address in the city centre in 2018/19.</p> <p>A service level agreement has therefore been agreed by FOR Cardiff and South Wales Police, which ensures that the two funded Police officers will be provided in addition to those provided ordinarily as part of the City Centre Beat team. It has been agreed that it is neither the job of the Street Ambassadors to get involved in dealing with any illegal activity taking place in the city centre as they have no enforcement powers, nor should they.</p>
W22	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>Will Cardiff Council consider providing more community services for the Pentwyn community, which at present does not have a community centre?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A range of community services is provided at the Powerhouse Hub in Llanedeyrn, including a library, housing and benefits advice, Into Work</p>

and money advice, as well as a wide range of activities and events including youth activities.

In addition, the Community Room at Pentwyn Leisure Centre offers the opportunity for other activities. The current timetable includes:

- Flying Start Stay and Play & training sessions – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings
- Adult Community Learning French course – Monday
- Ministry of Life (musical and creative youth work) – Monday late afternoon
- Baby massage and health visitor drop-in session – Tuesday

There is also scope to offer more activities in the Pentwyn Leisure Centre Community Room and the Community Hub Manager will explore opportunities to provide additional community services in this room.

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

In the light of an announcement in July that BBC Studios and Escape Hunt are to bring Doctor Who-themed escape rooms to a number of UK cities, but not to Cardiff, can you advise if the council had any discussion with the BBC and Escape Hunt about bringing such a facility to Cardiff, and can you update the council regarding what progress, if any, has been made towards establishing a new Doctor Who-themed attraction in Cardiff since the possibility was previously reported to this council?

Reply

The County Council has not been involved in discussions with the BBC and Escape Hunt regarding the possibility of bringing such an attraction to Cardiff. However, the Council has been pursuing the opportunity I referred to some months ago designed to locate a Dr Who themed attraction in the City. Those discussions are currently exploring the possibility of acquiring the rights to operate Dr Who Tours in the City that will focus on the Dr Who filming sites and the back room, behind the scene operations. To achieve this, the Council will need to establish bases in the City Centre and in Cardiff Bay and also enter into a partnership with a suitable Dr Who Tours operator. Those discussions are also on-going.

The Councillor will appreciate that I am eager to undertake a detailed due diligence exercise before formally entering into any agreement. This is especially required following the financial debacle associated with the Dr Who Experience negotiated by his administration in 2011, which although expected to be delivered on a cost neutral basis, actually resulted in a loss of £1.1 million which is being recovered through charges to other revenue budgets over the next seven years.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W24

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

Which council services does the council expect to be negatively impacted by the United Kingdom leaving the European Union without a deal?

Reply

If the UK fails to negotiate the terms of its departure from the EU – a ‘No Deal’ scenario – a number of Council Services could potentially be affected.

For example, it is estimated that there are around 18,000 EU nationals resident in Cardiff who would have to apply for settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme. It is reasonable to expect that many EU citizens will seek advice from Council hubs and libraries, placing demand on front line teams. It is also reasonable to expect that some of the most vulnerable groups in the city will require dedicated outreach work to support the settlement process, particularly those with no internet access or poor language skills. In anticipation of this, the Welsh Government has made available £1.3 million in funding that will help address the increase in demand for advice services from EU nationals.

Work to ensure Cardiff’s preparedness for Brexit has been on-going, with the Council monitoring the position closely in terms of the potential implications for Cardiff’s economy and public service provision in the city. This has included continued work with local public service partners through the PSB, and on-going engagement with major employers. This included a workshop on the implications for the city’s economy, which I chaired on 8 May 2018.

To outline the impact on Cardiff and other UK cities, I joined the Leaders of Core Cities in meeting with the EU’s Chief Negotiator for the United Kingdom Exiting the European Union, Michel Barnier, in Brussels on 19 February 2018 and have also given evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on 20 March 2018.

As the WLGA has noted however, “Wales cannot prepare for Brexit in isolation” and Cardiff’s ability to plan is constrained by what the UK Government shares. Unless and until detailed plans for a range of issues, such as possible new border checks at ports are released, there are limits to local preparation. It should be noted that responding

<p>to any supply chain failure would be a national issue and that, under such circumstances, the UK Government would be expected to issue a national emergency management response to local authorities and other affected partners.</p>
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STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>Residents in Pontprennau and Old St Mellons are witnessing the mass development of approximately 6,000 dwellings in our Community. Residents are deeply concerned about the lack of infrastructure, including lack of school places, doctors and dentists in the locality and the serious flaws in transport planning. Will you commit to bringing forward an urgent review of the Local Development Plan to ensure transport and infrastructure arrangements are urgently improved to avoid a total shutdown, congestion and gridlock of not only Pontprennau and Old St Mellons but also Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Strategic Sites in the Local Development Plan (LDP) will bring forward the new homes and jobs which the city needs. Importantly, the LDP puts in place a framework which also secures the phased delivery of supporting infrastructure, such as the provision of new schools and transportation improvements.</p> <p>The LDP is subject to a formal annual monitoring process based on 107 indicators which assess the performance of the Plan. The Cabinet considered the second Annual Monitoring Report on 20th September 2018 and endorsed the conclusions of this report, which stated that there was no evidence to suggest the need for a full or partial review at this early stage of plan implementation.</p> <p>We will be producing a document explaining some of the infrastructure improvements in a more user friendly way. I would like to thank Members who have engaged helpfully on this to ensure that their residents are better informed.</p>
W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>The road surface on Laytonia Avenue is in a poor state of repair. Will the council re-surface this street?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Laytonia Avenue in Gabalfa is included in this year's draft programme for micro asphalt preventative treatment. The programme is subject to final approval, which is anticipated in early October 2018.</p>

W27	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Residents are increasingly concerned about the future of the Mynachdy Institute and the implications of the recently published Section 106 agreement. Specifically, if the existing building is demolished by the developer, can the council provide a legally binding statement that the developer will then have to provide a new institute building for the community on this site?</p> <p>If the existing building, for whatever reason, is not rebuilt by the developer once demolished, can the council (having drawn up both the planning and the s106 agreements) guarantee that the council itself would provide a replacement on the site?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Planning Committee resolved that the developer should provide an alternative community centre on the site. If the developer defaulted in that obligation, then the Council would have the right to recover the sum of £193,984 in relation to improving community facilities in the area and £191,285 in relation to public open space provision. This is contained in the legal (Section 106) agreement attached to the planning permission.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that a replacement building would cost significantly more than the £193,984 contribution. If the developer did not proceed with on-site provision, then the £198k would be used to support improvements to community facilities within the locality of the development, and would be the subject of local Member consultation at that time.</p>
W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Residents in Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn are curious as to why their schools have so far not benefited from 20mph schemes. Can the council indicate when they might reach this part of Cardiff?</p> <p>Schools that have been built more recently, such as Pontprennau Primary School, seem to have them as standard, leaving other areas feeling left out or not as important when it comes to road safety. Residents also feel the discrepancy between schools is confusing and that it is especially important to have 20mph zones in areas with a high amount of schools in a concentrated area, such as Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn.</p>

Reply

20mph areas can bring a variety of benefits, including improving the liveability of our streets by reducing car use for local trips; improving safety by making it easier to cross the road and access local facilities; and improving the environment by encouraging more walking and cycling for local trips.

The Council is implementing a programme to roll out 20mph speed restrictions in residential areas, subject to the availability of funding. New 20mph limit schemes will be delivered incrementally from the city centre outwards, ensuring that new areas where schemes are implemented are adjacent to areas that already have the 20mph limits in place. This will make it easier for drivers to observe the new limits and provide continuity for people choosing to cycle in the city.

Following completion of such measures in the areas south of the A48, the Council will then consider the best approach for areas in those parts of the city that lie north of the A48, including Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn.

However, in addition to this area-wide 20mph speed limit approach, we are also developing a programme to introduce smaller 20mph zones in other parts of the city which are focussed on roads directly outside school gates.

In the past year, we have implemented new 20mph speed limits outside Radyr, Bryn Deri and Birchgrove Primary Schools, and will shortly be delivering new 20mph speed limits at Ysgol y Wern and Ysgol Pencae Primary Schools.

I will be speaking at the '20's Plenty' conference in Cardiff on Tuesday 2nd October and will be joining the call for the Welsh Government to introduce national guidelines on 20mph areas, which would make it far easier (and cheaper) for us to implement a city-wide rollout.

W29

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Cyncoed has a large number of senior citizens, who feel that with the decline in bus service in the ward they are becoming more socially isolated and less mobile. They struggle to get out, to go to their GP, to go to their local shops and cafes and to visit their friends or relatives. The 54 service has significantly reduced its frequency and route in the ward. Many pensioners in the ward do have free travel pass, however

with the decline in service the travel pass is worthless. Having held talks with Cardiff Bus they are unable to provide same level of service as their funds, which enabled them to provide routes that require subsidising, have been cut significantly. What role does Cardiff Council have to play in ensuring that the people who NEED public transport service, to remain active and therefore healthy, do actually have the service?

Reply

The Council has the power to subsidise bus services that cannot be run on a commercial basis by an operator. However, as you will be aware, budgets have been under considerable strain for several years and there is now no dedicated council budget for supporting non-commercial bus services.

Funding from Welsh Government is available through the Bus Service Support Grant; however, this is fully committed. Historically, bus use in Cyncoed has always been low and the current frequency of service 54 at two buses per hour during the daytime reflects this. It is unlikely, therefore, that any service improvements would be considered suitable for grant support.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Residents at Dan-Yr-Heol have asked for their road to be re-surfaced for many years. However, their call is yet to be heard. The road as it stands is in extremely poor condition, to the extent that it is dangerous for the young children to travel on their bikes to the school nearby; it also dangerous for the elderly residents that live on the road. With rainfall, there is often flooding on the road. We were assured that the road will be repaired with this year's budget, but we have seen little action. With the cold and wet weather now approaching, could the council assure the residents of Dan-Yr-Heol that their road will be fit for use this year?

Reply

As there is a recognised flooding issue on this road during heavy rainfall events, the Flood Water Management Team will be undertaking detailed investigations to determine the reasons for the flooding and potential solutions to alleviate them.

Whilst I am not aware of any such assurance having been made, I can confirm that localised carriageway improvements will be carried out

	<p>during the current financial year to address the worst affected areas. However, this work will be undertaken predominately on the southern end of the road so as not to conflict with any potential future drainage works that may be necessary.</p>
W31	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>It is great to see Nextbike being rolled out and we will welcome a few more Nextbikes in Cyncoed and Lakeside. However, watching cyclist pedal fast on shared bus lanes, trying desperately to cross across the road to take the turn or dodging vehicles parked or mobile, how safe is Cardiff for cyclists?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Next Bikes are proving to be a massive hit with Cardiff residents and visitors to the city. We now have around 20,000 people registered on the Cardiff scheme and since it was launched in May, and there have been around 80,000 individual rentals. There are now 500 bikes in circulation across 55 docking stations, including stations at Heath Halt Road and the Cardiff Metropolitan University campus in Cyncoed.</p> <p>Our aim is for the Next Bike network to serve all parts of the city, in time. Further expansion of the scheme will require additional bikes and docking stations. We are currently in dialogue with Welsh Government regarding funding for this. The location of new docking stations and bikes will depend on the availability of funding to expand the network, commercial considerations of the operator, technical considerations such as network coherence and physical site constraints.</p> <p>You ask how safe Cardiff is for cycling. This is difficult to quantify exactly. Injury collisions involving cyclists are actually quite rare.</p> <p>Our latest <i>Bike Life</i> Report indicates that a cycling injury occurs once every 377,000 miles pedalled in Cardiff. However, many people still perceive cycling as unsafe – according to <i>Bike Life</i>, only 34% of people think cycling safety in Cardiff is good and 79% of residents support the building of more protected cycle lanes.</p> <p>This is why we are so determined to push forward with our ambitious programme to build excellent routes and transform the cycling experience in Cardiff.</p> <p>Construction of the first new section of this network between St Andrews Crescent and Cathays Terrace, via Senghennydd Road, is</p>

set to commence early in 2019. Further phases of route will follow and we plan to grow the network year-on-year.

Other initiatives we are taking to make roads safer in Cardiff include our roll out of 20mph limits. We also offer free on-road cycle training to adults and a programme of on-road cycle training that is currently delivered to around 70 schools.

W32

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

There is a welcome drive to encourage more people to cycle in Cardiff and we must do all we can to make it pleasant, easy and safe for cyclists to move around the city. However, I am receiving an increasing amount of correspondence from residents concerned about the behaviour of some cyclists, not least cycling on pavements. Could you lay out the legal position in relation to cycling on pavements, what the enforcement options are and who is responsible for enforcement?

Reply

Cycling is not permitted on footways unless they are designated and signed as shared use cycle/footways.

Cycling is permitted on off road routes through some parks. It is also permitted in pedestrian areas on The Hayes, St Mary Street and High Street, although it is not permitted on Queen Street.

Responsibility for enforcement lies with the Police; however, the Council is taking steps to promote messages about cycling considerately.

The Council offers free one-to-one cycle training for adults living, working or studying in the city. One of the aims of this training is to improve awareness among adult cyclists of the expected standards of behaviour.

A Code of Conduct for all parks users has been launched with signage installed in parks where cycling is permitted (including Bute Park) reminding all users to behave responsibly.

We plan to take action to promote these messages about responsible behaviour much more widely across the city through a co-ordinated campaign, which we will be developing later this year.

W33

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Notwithstanding the amendment the ruling group passed to the motion on the topic of obesity which I proposed at July's council meeting, will the administration look at exploring the possibility of adopting planning policies that would enable "healthy zones" to be created in designated parts of the city where the number of fast food outlets is limited, as well as the possibility of adopting supplementary planning guidance with similar requirements to Gateshead Council's supplementary planning document for hot food takeaways which requires consideration to be

undertaken of where children congregate, the numbers of hot food takeaways already in existence and the existence of high levels of obesity?

Reply

I can confirm the Council explored this issue when preparing the adopted Local Development Plan for the city. However, the proposals to manage the location of fast food takeaways near schools within the Deposit Plan were not considered sound by the Planning Inspectors who conducted the Independent Examination of the Plan and were deleted from the final Plan.

Given this, it would not be possible to designate such zones within the current planning policy framework for the city. However, I can confirm the Council has been working closely with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to develop a robust evidence base, which has included looking at the density of hot food takeaways across the city, obesity levels and researching best practice in England. This work will help inform future potential policy interventions in respect of this issue.

W34

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Notwithstanding the amendment the ruling group passed to the motion on the topic of obesity which I proposed at July's council meeting, will the administration nonetheless look into the possibility of imposing a ban on junk food advertising on all council-controlled advertising sites, including bus shelters, along the lines of similar proposals recently announced by the Mayor of London in relation to London's bus and tube network?

Reply

Part 2 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires the Welsh Government to publish a national strategy on preventing obesity and reducing obesity levels in Wales. I understand that the Welsh Government will be consulting on a draft strategy later this year.

The development of Cardiff's response to this strategy will be led by Public Health on behalf of the Cardiff Public Services Board. I would expect this work to consider a range of ideas and options to help tackle obesity in the city, including a potential ban on junk food advertising on all council-controlled advertising sites.

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Are you satisfied with that the Pentwyn Park and Ride was closed on the August Bank Holiday Monday, and do you believe this was helpful in encouraging the modal shift in how people travel in the city that the council wishes to see?

Reply

The Council is seeking to influence how people travel on an everyday basis. The presence or absence of any travel facility on a Bank Holiday, where travel patterns do not reflect everyday conditions, will not affect this.