

COUNCIL, 26 NOVEMBER 2020 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How much flytipping was reported and removed by the council in the first quarter of 2020/21 and how does it compare to the same period in 2019/20?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The numbers of reported fly-tipping incidents in first quarters (Q1) of 2020/21 and 2019/20 were as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 824 1038 1010"><thead><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">2020/21 Q1</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>April</th><th>May</th><th>June</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>405</td><td>518</td><td>522</td></tr><tr><td>Total =</td><td colspan="3">1445</td></tr></tbody></table> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1055 1038 1240"><thead><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">2019/20 Q1</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>April</th><th>May</th><th>June</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>536</td><td>464</td><td>424</td></tr><tr><td>Total =</td><td colspan="3">1424</td></tr></tbody></table>		2020/21 Q1				April	May	June		405	518	522	Total =	1445				2019/20 Q1				April	May	June		536	464	424	Total =	1424		
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W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>How many suspected bonfires were dismantled on 05 November and the days leading up to it?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>On 5th November 2020, following a request from South Wales Police, council officers assisted in dismantling one potential bonfire that was located adjacent to an electrical substation in the city.</p>																																
W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>We have already witnessed episodes of very heavy rain over the last few months and further episodes are likely now and in the future given the impact of climate change. Can the administration clarify how regularly the drains and gullies on our roadways are inspected, especially in those areas where flooding is a higher risk?</p>																																

Is there a schedule that allows for the build-up of silt and other debris to be cleared effectively to ensure that drains and gullies can accommodate high volumes of water?

Reply

Blocked gullies are identified through the highway safety inspection regime and reported to the Drainage team for action. Highway Inspectors will also identify any damaged gullies, which will be repaired by our contractor.

Safety inspections take place either on a monthly, 3-monthly, 6-monthly or annual basis, depending on the hierarchy of the road. Reports of blocked gullies and localised highway flooding are also received directly by the operational team. Sites are then attended to reactively with priority given to higher risk locations or sites where property may be flooded. Once the reactive reports are addressed, gully cleansing crews will then revert again to planned activities, attending to higher risk locations more frequently.

In conjunction with the operational team, the Flood & Coastal Risk Management team is currently undertaking a review and developing a business case that will consider the most effective, proactive management of the city's highway drainage assets and the appropriate resources needed to deliver it. This will inform the development of a cyclic schedule for cleansing highway drainage assets, taking into account the requirement for a greater frequency of visits where there are potential flood risks.

The move to the digital capture of data relating to the cleansing of drains and gullies will also support improved performance management and assist in removing ongoing risks relating to localised flooding.

W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

The five year capital programme includes £3.325m to explore options for a new household waste recycling/re-use centre. What are the results for the sites that have already been assessed and please name them and what sites remain for consideration?

Has this work been outsourced; if so, to whom?

Reply

As I confirmed to you previously in response to a Written Question on this issue in September 2019, a baseline review of a number of sites was undertaken in 2018/19, but none were identified as suitable at the time of the review. Details of the sites considered previously remain confidential. We are therefore still exploring site options, as they become available, in order to identify a suitable site. No work has been outsourced in relation to identifying a suitable site.

CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What discussions have the council had with GLL and the Cardiff Blues about the return of Pentwyn Leisure Centre to use?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We have had regular communication with both the Blues and GLL in terms of the possibilities and challenges at Pentwyn throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Activities have been open to the public at Pentwyn Leisure Centre, including use of the 3G pitch, when Welsh Government Covid-19 regulations have allowed.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Since 2017, how many trees have been lost in the Gabalfa ward and how many new trees have been planted?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>From 2017 to date, 24 individual trees have been lost in the Gabalfa ward as they were either dead, diseased, dying, storm damaged or a combination of these factors. In all instances, felling was undertaken to secure public safety and the trees were located in parkland, housing land, highways land and within schools.</p> <p>The Council plants more trees annually than it fells; however, it does not follow that the trees are replaced within the exact same location or within the same ward. Ten new or replacement trees have been planted in the Gabalfa ward during this period.</p>

W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What work is ongoing to allow the safe reopening of Blackweir footbridge?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As I indicated in my reply to a Written Question from Cllr Gordon last month, it is our intention to reopen the bridge subject to confirmation of a satisfactory outcome from a structural survey. I understand that this survey, commissioned by Cardiff University, has now been completed and has revealed that part of the bridge decking requires replacement, as do a small number of metal mesh panels. Officers are awaiting confirmation of the timescales for completion of these works from the University and I will keep you and other interested members updated on progress.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></p> <p>Roath residents very much welcomed the reopening of the gym at Penylan Library & Community Centre on 9th November. Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to reopen the library section of the building?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Following the end of the recent Firebreak lockdown, officers from the Housing & Communities service are in the process of getting the library facility ready to reopen safely for click & collect services, subject to the requirements and approval of both GLL and the Council's Health & Safety team. Arrangements are currently being finalised and the indicative reopening date is Monday 30th November 2020.</p>

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>Will council tenants be eligible for a refund on their service charges for the period when cleaning and garden maintenance was suspended due to COVID?</p>
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Reply

Council tenants pay a service charge in addition to their rents. This charge is the same for all properties that receive the service, as all costs are pooled and shared by tenants. The charges do not reflect the actual cost of delivering the service and, in many cases, are considerably lower than the actual cost.

While some services to tenants were suspended in the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff that would normally deliver these services were redeployed to provide other essential services, such as additional cleaning in older persons' accommodation, assisting with the set-up and cleaning of the new homelessness hostels, delivering food parcels and essentials to households and distributing PPE. There was no reduction in cost to the Council and, therefore, we do not propose to make any refund to tenants.

W10

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What steps is the council taking to ensure full take up of free school meals provision for families who may be newly eligible as a result of claiming Universal Credit, and those families with No Recourse to Public Funds who are now eligible for free school meals?

Reply

Due to the downturn in the economy caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the numbers of families claiming Free School Meals in Cardiff from 12,005 on 1st March 2020 to 13,614 on 16th November 2020.

A number of steps are being taken to ensure that all eligible families in Cardiff access Free School Meals provision.

Free School Meals are administered by the Council's Benefit Service alongside claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. In many cases, the UK Government Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will advise the Benefit Service if a new claim for Universal Credit has been made. The Council's benefit assessor will then identify if the family is eligible to claim Free School Meals and invite a claim to be made. Similarly, if the family claims Council Tax Reduction, the assessor would also determine if the family was eligible to claim Free School Meals and invite a claim to be made.

Claiming Free School Meals is now even easier with a new simple online claim form that can be completed on the Council's website. For families that cannot access the internet, help can be provided over the dedicated Free School Meals helpline or face-to-face in Hubs by appointment. The Adviceline staff are also fully trained on Free School Meals eligibility and ensure that anyone who calls and may be eligible are advised accordingly.

A wide-ranging publicity campaign will be rolled out this winter promoting Advice and Benefit services in Cardiff. This campaign will include Free School Meals, encouraging take up and letting families know how to claim. In addition, we are working in partnership with organisations that work with families with No Recourse to Public Funds in order to promote Free School Meals. Additional briefing sessions are scheduled to take place in the next few weeks to ensure that support staff encourage applications and are knowledgeable about the scheme.

Individual schools are also helping to promote Free School Meals and will signpost parents to the Free School Meals helpline or Council website for further information, in addition to what is already provided in the Admissions Handbook.

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W11

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

Given the Flaxland Woodland is not listed on this year's asset management plan, can the council provide clarification on the current status of the previously proposed disposal of the Flaxland Woodland for redevelopment?

Reply

The Councillor will; be aware that, following a meeting with elected representatives and local residents, the land at Flaxland Avenue has temporarily been removed from the list of potential disposals in the 2020/21 Annual Property Plan. This decision was taken to afford local residents the opportunity to establish a suitable organisation capable of acquiring the site from the Council at value.

	<p>I understand that a group known as the Friends of Flaxland Woods has been established and that its inaugural AGM was held last month. I have asked County Estates to liaise with the group to establish the current situation and to confirm that they are in a position to proceed with the purchase. The long-term future of the land will be determined by the outcome of those discussions.</p>
W12	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DE'ATH</u></p> <p>Cardiff-based start-up Indie Eats claims its aim is “not profit, but protection of the independent food scene whilst trying to create a fairer system for those in the gig economy.” They claim that they “take a lower percentage in commissions compared to other big names and 100% of delivery charged to you go straight to our food delivery drivers.” On top of this, 1% from the commission that they take from indies is earmarked to support local community and charitable initiatives. Throughout August and September they donated this 1% to Llamau to help end homelessness in Wales.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member responsible for community development, cooperatives, and social enterprise undertake to see what support he might be able to offer to assist Indie Eats mission?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The hospitality sector has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Council is impressed by the creative and innovative ways in which the sector has responded. This is especially true of the independent food scene. I can confirm that the Council will respond positively to any initiative that can support the sector in meeting the challenges resulting from Covid-19. As a result of the question you have tabled today, I will ask the Economic Development team to make direct contact with the company to see what support can be offered.</p>
W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR KEITH PARRY</u></p> <p>Is hunting with dogs taking place on council owned land?</p> <p>What measures are being taken to stop this activity?</p>

Reply

The Councillor will be aware that hunting with dogs in England & Wales is banned under the provisions of the Blair Government's Hunting Act 2004. It is, therefore, as a matter of law, not permitted on the Council's land. County Estates is not currently aware of any Council owned land where such activity is taking place.

In the event that such illegal activity is reported, the matter will be immediately referred to the Police in order that they may take appropriate action under the relevant law.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

What are the timescales for the opening of the new COVID centre at UHW and the decommissioning of the Dragon's Heart Hospital?

Reply

This is really a matter for Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB); however, I did provide an update previously on these two temporary hospital facilities in an email that was sent to all members on 15th October 2020. This included details relating to the decommissioning of Ysbyty Calon Y Ddraig / Dragon's Heart Hospital at Principality Stadium and the opening of the new Lakeside Wing at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) to help deal with any surge in the number of Covid-19 patients.

I understand from the UHB Chief Executive that 66 beds at the new Lakeside Wing should have been fully operational as of yesterday, with another 100 beds coming on stream over the weekend as part of Phase 1. Further information about the new Lakeside Wing can be found on the UHB website at: <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/uhw-lakeside-wing>

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

What, if any, plans does the council have to deal with the expected shortages of food, goods and medicines resulting from the end of the Brexit transition period (no deal or a poor free trade deal) and what impact this is expected to have on the delivery of both council services and the wider population of Cardiff?

Reply

The Council has well-established business continuity arrangements and emergency management structures, which will account for some of the potentially major issues associated with Brexit, including disruption to supply chains.

The UK Government released their Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWCS) in September 2020. The planning assumption is that EU Member States will impose 'third country' controls on UK goods at the end of the transition period.

On 1 January 2021, the RWCS is that 40-70% of trucks travelling to the EU might not be ready for new border controls, which could reduce the flow rate to 60-80% of normal levels at the bottom end of the readiness range. A No-Deal Brexit, in particular, will therefore likely have a demonstrable negative impact, both for Cardiff Council and its population, in terms of disruption to the usual supply of goods and the Council has planned on that basis.

Corporate Directors and Directors were initially required to provide assurance statements reflecting the preparedness of their areas for Brexit in March and August 2019. As part of this work, each directorate identified their key suppliers and made contact with them in order to request Brexit preparedness statements, with responses incorporated into contingency planning arrangements. Mitigating actions were put in place where necessary; for example, alternative suppliers were sourced and/or stock levels of potentially impacted goods increased to a level that would allow for continued supply in the event of supply issues. The assurance statements were assessed by the Council's Emergency Management Unit, who concluded that preparations are reasonable and proportionate.

In July and November 2020, directorates were requested to update this work, and have or are in the process of reviewing their Business Continuity Plans through a Brexit and Covid-19 lens, with a focus again on the resilience of supply chains.

Proportionate steps have therefore been taken to ensure that the Council is as prepared as it can be for the end of the Transition Period, and to enable the continuity of services for Cardiff residents, particularly those which support the most vulnerable.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

What safeguards are in place to ensure that personal data, provided to TTP via businesses, is not misused by individuals to target vulnerable people? There have been reports of some hospitality staff using the data to look women and girls up on social media in order to harass them. People should not have to choose between their personal safety and participating in the TTP process.

Reply

In terms of customer contact information to support the TTP process in Wales, the current requirement is for hospitality, leisure and close contact service businesses to collect the name of the customer or visitor (this can be restricted to a lead contact in some circumstances) and a contact phone number, as well as the date, arrival time and, where possible, the departure time. In rare instances where a phone number is not available, then an email address or postal address should be provided.

The guidance issued by the Welsh Government advises that businesses should hold records for 21 days from the date of each separate instance in which a staff member, customer or visitor has been on the premises. This covers the typical maximum 14-day incubation period of the virus and an additional 7 days during which people may be infectious after the onset of symptoms. This will allow for testing and contact tracing, should it be required.

After 21 days, this information must be securely disposed of or deleted by businesses. When deleting or disposing of data, they must do so in a way that does not risk any unintended access – for example, ensuring the permanent deletion of electronic files and by using cross-cut shredders to dispose of paper documents instead of disposing them in public waste bins.

As personal data is being collected, businesses are also data controllers of this information under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This means that businesses have certain legal obligations that they must comply with in handling that data in order to protect the privacy of their staff, customers and visitors. Relevant guidance on this has been published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Businesses must have appropriate technical and security measures in place in order to protect customer contact information. These measures will vary depending on how businesses choose to hold this information, including whether it is collected in hard copy or

electronically. The Welsh Government prefers this data to be held electronically if possible, but recognises that this will not be possible for all businesses, particularly small businesses.

The onus is therefore clearly on businesses to meet these requirements and any breaches or misuse of personal data can be dealt with through a range of different pieces of legislation. Shared Regulatory Services are not aware of any such incidents as described in your question but, if there is evidence to support such claims, then they will happily receive it and take the matter forward.

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
(COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELSMORE)

W17

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Can the administration clarify how it is working with Public Health Wales, the Welsh Government and adult residential care providers to ensure that as much as possible is being done to reduce the risk of a high mortality rate in care homes such as that seen nationally during the first wave of the pandemic earlier in the year?

Reply

The Council is working in partnership with Public Health Wales (PHW), Shared Regulatory Services (SRS), Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB) and the Council's Health & Safety team through a number of mechanisms. The Council chairs a weekly meeting of all partners to discuss important issues such as testing and visits to care homes, and to ensure that the mechanisms for sharing information and communications with independent sector colleagues are robust.

To date, this group has worked in partnership to produce a Regional Hospital Discharge Risk Assessment tool, which is a protocol to support providers in outbreak through the mobilisation of supportive outbreak meetings, chaired by Operational Managers in Adult Services, to ensure that providers have access to PPE, Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) advice, clinical advice and that their business continuity plans are robust. Fortnightly meetings are also held with the care home provider association to address Covid-related matters. A representative from the UHB attends the meetings alongside Commissioning Officers. These are further supported through the production of fortnightly newsletters for providers, which summarise all of the key guidance and advice from a range of sources that has been made available to the sector.

Collaborative surveys have been produced with the care home provider association to understand the impact of Covid-19 on the sector, as well as challenges and areas of good practice. Auditing of compliance with fortnightly staff testing arrangements via the testing portal and arrangements for weekly whole home testing where a care home has an open incident with PHW has also been undertaken.

Commissioning teams have provided clear guidance setting out “What Good Looks Like” in relation to effective IP&C that care home managers and responsible individuals can use to audit the standard of IP&C in their care homes. We have issued clear guidance on visiting using a risk-based approach and this is reviewed regularly by the Incident Management Team (IMT).

Monitoring of the situation in care homes is undertaken via the triangulation of data from a number of sources, including PHW, SRS, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and the Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) scheme, which is collated in daily situation reports. In addition, weekly multi-agency meetings are held in order to review the position, providing a route into the IMT for the timely escalation of issues.

Additional funding via the Welsh Government Hardship Fund, which provides a Covid-enhanced payment on the weekly rate for commissioned care home beds and a separate payment to address the impact of voids, has also been administered to providers.

From the outset, the Council was very proactive in sourcing and supplying PPE to the city’s care homes. Throughout the pandemic, we have had emergency supplies that could be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We currently have a fully operational process whereby care homes can either request a weekly delivery from us to meet their needs or, if they have space, they are encouraged to take up to 12 weeks’ supply. Feedback from care home providers has been very good in terms of our response to the provision of PPE. To date, we have provided over 20 million items of PPE to social care partners.

With the imminent prospect of a vaccine, work has commenced to ensure that, as soon as a suitable vaccine is available, it is rolled out quickly and safely to our care homes residents and staff. There will be a lot of factors that PHW needs to consider and we are awaiting advice on which vaccine would be most suitable for staff and residents; however, our priority is ensuring that care homes in Cardiff are fully informed and will be ready as soon a vaccine is available.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Given the council's intention to extend the 20 mph speed restrictions across the entire city, is there a timescale for extending this to the outer wards such as Cyncoed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you are aware, the Council has a well advanced programme to install 20mph limits across the city and is working on an area by area basis, ensuring that each new area is implemented adjacent to a completed one.</p> <p>Whilst this programme has focused initially on areas south of the A48, we are now considering the right approach for the rest of Cardiff and this work will be aligned with the Welsh Government's proposal for a default 20mph speed limit for residential areas in Wales.</p> <p>Officers are engaged with Welsh Government officials on this and, in due course, it is anticipated that Cardiff will become one of the Welsh Government pilot areas for this initiative. The Cardiff pilot will be confined to a specific geographical area of the city; however, the timescale for the pilot has not yet been confirmed.</p> <p>The wider expansion of 20mph limits to include outer wards in the city that are not currently covered by 20mph limits would follow the conclusion of the pilot project. At this stage, it is not possible to confirm precisely when 20mph will be introduced in specific outer wards.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Prior to lockdown a demand-responsive bus service was launched, part of which served the Mynachdy estate in the Gabalfa ward. Given that bus usage was significantly down during that period, what are the next steps for that trial?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you rightly point out in your question, the Covid-19 pandemic has drastically affected bus usage in the city, including use of the Fflecsi demand responsive service. This has meant that the trial could not represent normal conditions. In the light of this, the Council is working with the Welsh Government and the service operator with a view to extending the trial period in order to obtain a more realistic view of the usefulness of the bus service.</p>
W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Given the closure of Blackweir Bridge and additional footfall on Western Avenue, has any further consideration been given to expanding the pavements along Western Avenue to accommodate social distancing?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers have not undertaken an assessment of how the closure of Blackweir Bridge might have specifically affected footfall on Western Avenue. The footways on Western Avenue are generally quite wide, except for the narrow sections of footway on the road bridge over the River Taff. I have asked officers to consider the feasibility, safety implications and costs of introducing additional pedestrian space on this particular section of road.</p> <p>I would also make you aware of our plans to reduce the speed limit on Western Avenue from 40mph to 30mph. I am advised that the new speed limit will be introduced within the next month or so.</p>
W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>How many trees in the Gabalfa ward are covered by Tree Protection Orders?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are 5 Tree Preservation Orders in the Gabalfa ward, which protect 155 trees that are either specifically identified as single specimens or as part of specific groups of trees.</p> <p>A woodland area containing an unspecified number of specimens, which is known as Gabalfa Woods and located between Tesco Extra/Llys Talybont and the River Taff, is also protected.</p>

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

High traffic speeds on the Gabalfa roundabout are believed to reduce capacity, safety and contribute to increased queues and congestion in the vicinity. Are there any further measures that could be considered to reduce traffic speeds on the roundabout?

Reply

A road safety scheme was delivered on Gabalfa Interchange in 2013, despite opposition from the then Liberal Democrat Councillor for Gabalfa. This was a collision-reduction scheme funded by the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant, which introduced a 20mph speed limit on the Gabalfa gyratory, together with dedicated left-turn lanes and lane allocation road markings.

In the 5-year period prior to implementation of the 2013 scheme, there had been 53 personal injury collisions at this location. A review of the latest available Police data for 2015-2019 shows that there has been a significant reduction in personal injury collisions following the introduction of the scheme, with 13 such collisions recorded in the last 5-year period.

The changes made in 2013 are therefore considered to have had a positive impact and no further measures are currently required.

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

Analysis of research suggests that a small rise in exposure to air pollution is associated with an 11% increase in deaths from Covid-19, with another study suggesting that 15% of all Covid-19 deaths are attributable to dirty air. What is the council doing to drive down air pollution as we come out of the second lockdown, to avoid dirty air exacerbating fatalities during the second wave of Covid-19?

Reply

Despite the onset of the pandemic the Council has been implementing its Clean Air Plan, which was approved and funded by the Welsh Government at the start of 2020. The measures being implemented include:

- Implementation of 36 Electric Buses on a number of routes within the City Centre;

- Bus Retro Fitting Programme;
- Taxi Mitigation Scheme;
- City Centre Transportation Improvements; and
- Active Travel Measures.

The assessment of these measures indicated that they would not only be effective in ensuring that air quality will meet legal limits on Castle Street, which was forecast to breach EU limits beyond 2021, but will see wider air quality benefits across all of Cardiff.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has introduced a number of significant measures to not only ensure appropriate social distancing could be achieved in areas of high footfall, but to also encourage the use of active travel to provide further health and air quality benefits. The most obvious of the schemes was the closure of Castle Street during the summer and the provision of a two-way dedicated cycle route.

Air pollution in the City Centre saw a dramatic improvement between May and August 2020, with a reduction of 52% in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels when compared to the same period in 2019. Air quality improvements were also seen across all four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Going forward, Castle Street will be re-opening to buses and taxis only as part of a temporary scheme as we look to undertake wider consultation on a permanent solution for Castle Street. This will be supported by a detailed modelling exercise on future traffic flows and air quality impacts which will help shape the final proposals for the area.

The Council has also installed a new automated roadside site monitor on Castle Street, which operates on a 24/7 basis measuring levels of NO₂, PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} and forms part of the Welsh Automated Monitoring Network. This is further supported with use of 6 near real time indicative air quality analysers, which continuously monitor for Nitric Oxide, Nitrogen Dioxide & Ozone, PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}, and do so every 15 minutes. This enhanced monitoring capability will ensure that the Council is able to better assess ongoing air quality levels on a real-time basis and whether specific measures are achieving the forecasted improvements.

In addition to the works in the City Centre, two pop-up cycle routes – the 'Cross City' and 'Bay Loop' cycleways – are being brought forward as part of the Council's ongoing Covid-19 Recovery Plans and are in line with the cycling vision set out in the Council's Transport White Paper.

	<p>The consultation on the One Planet Cardiff Strategy is currently open and we would welcome your views on measures to improve air quality in the city.</p>
W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>What is the council doing to assist WeCount, the citizens science project and EU case study run by UWE, which is encouraging residents to monitor traffic levels in their communities in order to help deliver change in regards to transport habits?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We have warmly welcomed the opportunity for Cardiff to be a case study city in the WeCount project. Empowering citizens to take an active role in monitoring and understanding the air quality impacts of road transport has the potential to not only promote behaviour change at an individual level, but also to make a powerful contribution to public debate on these issues and to help to inform the development of policy and interventions designed to make our air cleaner.</p> <p>Officers and myself have met with the project leaders and are collaborating with their team to support the delivery of the project outcomes. WeCount is currently at the pilot stage, but we have met with the project team to discuss how it can be rolled out and to identify potential target areas that complement existing and planned Council schemes – for example, School Streets and School Active Travel Plans.</p> <p>Where appropriate, we will be able to offer support in promoting the project to potential participants through the Council’s communication channels (e.g. social media). Officers will be in contact with the WeCount project team throughout the duration of the project.</p>
W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>A Park and Stride facility has recently been introduced in Pentwyn, with Pentwyn Leisure Centre car park being used by parents of children at St David's Church in Wales Primary School, to encourage them not to park directly outside of the school grounds. Can the council provide an update as to the effectiveness of this scheme, in terms of reducing congestion, changing travel habits, and improving pupil safety, and can details of other Park and Stride schemes also be provided?</p>

Reply

The Park and Stride scheme has only recently been introduced so it is too soon to know how effective the scheme has been. Since the scheme was introduced, we are aware that the school has received feedback from some parents who are not supportive of the scheme. It seems that some parents would prefer to have a facility outside the school to enable them to drive their children to school and drop them off near the gates. We are engaging with the school regarding this feedback.

As matter of policy, the Council does not provide dedicated drop-off facilities at schools. Doing this would simply encourage parents to drive their children to school and undermine the efforts we are making to encourage active travel to school by walking and cycling. This includes the work we are doing to develop School Active Travel Plans and to deliver National Standards Cycle Training and pedestrian safety training through the Kerbcraft programme.

The Park and Stride facility is intended to enable those parents who do need to drive to school to park safely within a short walking distance of the school. This will help to reduce congestion and the dangers that can be created when a lot of cars are parking and manoeuvring within a tight space at the same time outside the school gates.

Officers will continue to engage with St David's CIW Primary School and GLL/Better who operate the leisure centre to support the operation of the Park and Stride scheme. This will include supporting the school with communications to parents to encourage travel to school by active modes and, where parents must drive, by using the Park and Stride facility. We will also investigate what additional parking restrictions and enforcement measures may be required to tackle the issues with traffic and parking on Bryn Celyn.

W26

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

How does the creation of a 'temporary' car park on City Road align with the aim of this administration to see a 50:50 transport mode split, with a move away from cars being the dominant transport mode of choice?

Reply

I understand that the Council's Transportation function has raised concerns, in accordance with LDP Policy T5 (Managing Transport Impacts), about the current planning application for the development of a temporary surface level car park on the Gaiety Theatre site at 195-197 City Road. LDP Policy T5 (5.230 (ii)) requires new developments to *"contribute to reducing reliance on the private car, in line with national planning policies and the strategic transport objectives and policies of the LDP"*.

The planning application is a regulatory matter for determination by the Local Planning Authority and it would therefore be inappropriate for me to make any comment on the proposals.