

**COUNCIL: 21 JUNE 2018**

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## **HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES STATEMENT**

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### **New Community Wellbeing Hubs**

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the Cabinet approved plans to build upon the success of the Hub Strategy in Cardiff by developing Community Wellbeing Hubs in the north and west of the city. This includes plans to develop and seek investment in the standalone libraries and expand the services available. A targeted community strategy will now be progressed which will focus on building upon the good practice from Hubs and Libraries to engage citizens in events and activities that will aim to deliver improved wellbeing and life chances of those living in the city.

Area reviews will now take place to look at the needs of the specific areas – this will help to develop our understanding of the demographics of the area and the wellbeing needs of citizens. There will be consultation with local residents, as well as partners and key stakeholders, so we can ensure that the services that are developed are aligned with community needs. This strategy will ensure that Cardiff continues to have a very strong core library provision which will deliver literacy, social and learning outcomes across the city.

### **Volunteering Award Nomination**

I am pleased to advise that the volunteering team from Into Work Services have made the final shortlist of three in the Digital 100 Leaders Award in the “Digital Skills or Inclusion Initiative of the Year” category. The Digital Leaders 100 List launched in 2013 and has become the premier list identifying individuals and teams leading digital transformation in the UK. It consists of leaders and organisations who are pioneering change within the public sector, enterprise, SMEs and charity sectors. The final result will be announced on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

Over 70 volunteers support our employed team to provide one-to-one, face-to-face help with digital inclusion to all citizens across Cardiff. This not only ensures excellent customer service, but also gives volunteers the confidence, skills and references they need to support them into paid employment. Over 160 of our ex-volunteers are now working.

In 2017, over 40,000 customers were supported in the job clubs and volunteers were vital to the 1,500 sessions that were held. Our volunteers speak over 20 different community languages and have dedicated 19,000 of their own hours over the last three years.

## **Housing Developments**

Exciting plans are moving forward to deliver innovative new housing solutions on difficult brownfield sites in the city. Four new housing schemes will shortly be submitted for planning using a modular system which could halve the traditional construction time, delivering highly energy efficient and sustainable homes more quickly. A similar scheme has been built by Lewisham Council and representatives from the Council will be visiting their site on Lewisham High Street on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018. On the same visit, we will also be looking at the exciting redevelopment of a 26 acre site of east London docklands by Vastint, known as Sugar House Island. Vastint are planning a similar redevelopment of land at Dumballs Road. The Sugar House Island scheme is delivering an exciting mixed-use development incorporating housing, commercial units, retail and leisure.

## **Rent Smart Wales**

Over 90,000 landlords with rented property in Wales are now registered with Rent Smart Wales. This is an incredible achievement in the 2 two and a half years since the legislation became effective.

## **Community Safety Board Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

I can advise that, following a review of the Public Services Board's key programmes of work, a new, more integrated programme for public service leadership on community safety issues in Cardiff has been approved. A meeting of the Community Safety Board, that was chaired jointly by myself and the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, took place on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and included representation from Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and South Wales Police. The Board discussed a number of key community safety issues for the city that require a partnership response to be tackled effectively. This included the following high priority areas:

- Cohesion & Integration
- Night Time Economy
- Protecting the vulnerable and addressing exploitation
- Resilient Communities including the locality working pilots for Butetown and Ely / Caerau
- County Lines
- Knife Crime
- Discarded Needles/Needle Exchange

**Councillor Lynda Thorne**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities**  
**15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**