

COUNCIL, 23 JULY 2015 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W1

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Some local authorities in the UK have introduced a condition for library membership whereby library patrons have to consent to allowing their data to be passed to third parties. Please can you confirm that this is not the case in Cardiff, and that you will categorically rule out introducing such a condition?

Reply

I can confirm that library membership data is used solely for internal purposes by the Council – i.e. for consultation and information regarding council services. Whilst there may well be a commercial value to this information, we do not consider it in the best interests of our library users to sell this information on to third parties.

CORPORATE SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE (COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

W2

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

In light of the imminent restrictions on use of the County Hall car park and considering the need to encourage more people to leave their cars at home, will you agree to register the Council for Cyclescheme? This allows employees to get bikes and accessories tax-free, saving on average about half the cost. It's completely free to join, and easy to administer online.

Reply

The Council has previously had cycle salary sacrifice schemes in place for employees. Both schemes were provided and financed by external companies. The most recent scheme was provided by Cyclescheme Ltd. and finance for the scheme was provided by a third party. The contract for this scheme came to an end in March 2014 and the Council has not had a scheme in place since that time.

As part of the work being undertaken to implement a new parking scheme at County Hall, the feasibility of a new contract is being explored and it is hoped that, in due course, this will be available again to employees.

Additional cycle parking has been installed on site to support the growing number of cyclists at County Hall and both pool cycles and cycle training are available for employees and Members who wish to use bikes whilst undertaking their duties.

W3

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES

Has any further thought been given to introducing e-payslips for council staff where possible?

Reply

Yes – when this matter was raised by you in a previous Written Question back in January 2014, you were advised that, at that time, a viable business case could not be made in view of the considerable upfront implementation and ongoing support costs required by our Technology Partner.

However, I can confirm that further options are actively being investigated and it is anticipated that a viable solution can be developed and the phased introduction of E-Payslips could commence during the latter part of this financial year. There will be

consultation on implementation with the Trade Unions and Members will also be kept informed.

In the meantime, we have successfully transferred approximately 3,000 staff from 4 weekly to monthly payment, thereby reducing postage and stationery costs and have also reviewed our distribution methods in order to reduce the number of payslips sent by post.

W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

What is the total annual cost of each position on the Council more senior than assistant director, including salary and other contributions made by the Council? Please specify the individual amounts and also the total cost.

Reply

The new Tier 1 Senior Management Team structure, agreed as part the recent corporate budget savings in February, saw a reduction in the number of Directors from 10 down to 6 without any increase in pay. The following salaries for Directors apply unchanged from last to this year (figures include on costs of pension and National Insurance employer contributions):

POSITION	BASE COSTS	SALARY COSTS (INCL. ONCOSTS)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	£170,000	£230,000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES	£130,000	£175,000
DIRECTOR CITY OPERATIONS	£120,000	£162,000
DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & CUSTOMER SERVICES	£120,000	£162,000
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	£120,000	£162,000
DIRECTOR EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING	£120,000	£162,000
DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES	£120,000	£162,000
DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES	£120,000	£162,000
TOTAL	£1,020,000	£1,377,000*

**The total figure reflects a cost reduction of £648,000 and deletion of 4 Director posts as part of the Tier 1 Senior Management Team restructuring process.*

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (COUNCILLOR SUE LENT)

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many people are on the list from which chairs of child protection conferences are chosen?

Reply

There are 13 officers within the Council's Safeguarding Unit who have responsibility for chairing child protection conferences.

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W6

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many staff work in the youth service now in comparison to on 01-05-2012 and how many have been lost since 2015 budget day?

Reply

According to the Council's establishment in May 2012, there were 126.95 FTE employed in the Youth Service. 31.46 FTE were released on voluntary severance at the end of March 2015 following approval of the 2015/16 budget by the Council on 26 February 2015. As of May 2015, there were 55.63 FTE employed in the Youth Service.

To put this in context, you will be aware that the Council has had to make over £85 million in savings during the last three years, as well as savings of £41 million in 2015/16. As a result, the Council and partners is developing a new model for Youth Services as part of a wider youth offer for young people in Cardiff. The proposed model will be delivered less directly by the Council and will involve the local authority and community and youth organisations working together to provide services, including more targeted support and funding being provided through 15 Youth Innovation Grants to support an open access youth provision.

ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR BOB DERBYSHIRE)

W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>How many residents in Penylan were consulted about the specific changes they would face to their own individual waste collection method (as opposed to being consulted about the general principles of the waste strategy)?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We are dealing with waste collection changes affecting 152,000 households across the whole city, not just changes in Penylan. We take consultation seriously, but it needs a sensible approach. It would be unrealistic to gauge every single opinion from every resident of Cardiff. That is why we undertook three separate city wide consultation exercises in the lead up to implementing the most cost effective and efficient changes to waste collections.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>It took Penylan's Lib Dem councillors just three evenings to survey the network of streets that currently use bags, in order to gauge the level of opposition or support to the new bins. Why did the administration not consider carrying out its own survey of those streets in the city where the imposition of bins was certain to be controversial?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As I made clear in answer to your previous written question, we are making changes to over 152,000 households on a city wide basis. We need to provide the most cost effective and efficient service for the city. We can't afford to provide every household with an individually tailored service.</p>
W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>One section of road in the Roath Mill Gardens Conservation Area will, sensibly, be allowed to continue using bags. Another section of the very same road, together with other roads in the Conservation Area, will have to use bins. Is this logical or consistent?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The new service is based on the most cost effective round sizes for</p>

	<p>each waste stream and the number of properties that a vehicle can service in each shift.</p> <p>We have accommodated properties with no frontages and also had discussions with our conservation officer. Where properties within conservation areas have sufficient frontage space and/or access to the rear of the properties, then bins have been implemented.</p> <p>Where a particular road has two different schemes, this is because of operational effectiveness, rather than as a result of it being part of a conservation area.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN</u></p> <p>How many times have refuse collections been missed in my ward of Gabalfa? Please show breakdown in number per street per year?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We do not hold the information on a street-by-street basis, but each month the number of missed collections in Gabalfa ranges on average from two to five households. This is very low considering the number of households in your ward and the fact that we carry out six different collections per fortnight to every household.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN</u></p> <p>Has the number of missed refuse collections gone up or down over last ten years? Please give details for every year there is data for?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the number of queries from missed collections across the city has been fairly constant at just over 1,000 per month for the last few years. This level has been consistent since before changes that were implemented in 2011, when the collection days were rebalanced and changed from 5 to 6 collections per fortnight for each household.</p>

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

Please give details of visitor numbers for Wedal Road recycling plant over last ten years? If possible, express in terms of numbers per month and summarise how many are unique users.

Reply

We do not hold this level of detail. However, a recent survey undertaken in April 2015 identified that the site user numbers at the Wedal Road Household Waste Recycling Centre ranged from 1,454 to 1,960 per week.

W13

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

How many times have the park gates on Roath lake been forgotten to be closed at night in last ten years?

Reply

I am not aware of any occasions when the locking of the gates to Roath Park has been forgotten. The gates are not locked on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOLDEN

How many reports have we had over last five years either to pest control or c2c with regards to rats in Gabalfa ward? Express in terms of number per month and breakdown to street by street if possible.

Reply

All requests for service for rodents that are received by the Council's Pest Control team are given priority and are dealt with on a city wide basis. The related data is not broken down by ward so I am unable to provide you with the level of detail which you have requested. The figures relating to requests to deal with rats across Cardiff for the last five years are listed below:

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
1305	1022	1118	942	1312

It should be noted that Cardiff residents are not obliged to use the Council's pest control service to deal with rodents and can treat the problem themselves or use an alternative provider. Therefore, the figures provided above do not necessarily provide an indication of the extent of a rodent problem within the city.

LEADER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS (COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE)

W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHAUNDY</u></p> <p>Residents of Llanedeyrn were delighted to hear one of their councillor's bids under the Neighbourhood Renewal programme was successful in regard to a play area in the Llanedeyrn area. However, since the announcement of the successful bid in October 2013, no more has been discussed about this project with ward councillors and residents are keen for matters to be progressed. Could the Cabinet member advise when a meeting to progress this project will be held please so that local residents can be informed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the play area at Coed y Gores, Llanedeyrn is included in the 2014-2017 Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes programme. The notification letter you received in October 2013 outlined that this project was programmed for 2016/17.</p> <p>Subject to confirmation of funding for neighbourhood renewal schemes in the 2016/17 capital programme, officers will be in touch with local councillors at the start of the next financial year to discuss the project idea in more detail.</p>
W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES</u></p> <p>Last month's meeting saw the embarrassing spectacle where a member of the public asked, quite appropriately, a public question to a Cabinet Member, who refused to give them a proper answer. Were you ashamed by your Cabinet Member's conduct?</p> <p>If the Public Questions agendum now comes with conditions attached, will you make clear what those conditions are, so that members of the public considering submitting questions in the future don't have to waste their time traipsing to City Hall only to be ignored by your Cabinet?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Not at all. The rules on Public Questions at Council meetings are set out in Part 4 of the Constitution. Rule 19(b) allows the person to whom a question is addressed to decline to answer provided that they state the reason for declining to answer.</p> <p>The Public Question put at the last meeting was from one of the candidates in a by-election that was due to be held the following</p>

<p>week. There is a convention that candidates in elections do not use Public Question time for party political purposes as this can deter citizens from also engaging in the process.</p>
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