

COUNCIL, 30 SEPTEMBER 2021 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE
(COUNCILLOR KEITH JONES)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>What specific training and professional development is offered to planning officers and members of the planning committee to ensure they remain up-to-date on latest advances in building design, specifically in terms of sustainability?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>All members of the Council’s Planning Committee members are given training by professional officers before attending the committee. This includes senior managers within the Planning Service.</p> <p>Professional planning officers who are chartered members of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) are obliged to undertake a minimum of 50 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) within any two-year period to maintain their chartered status. Furthermore, identifying training and development opportunities forms an integral part of all council officers’ annual Personal Reviews, alongside corporate e-learning programmes.</p> <p>With regard to Building Surveyors who also work within the Planning Service, Chartered Building Control Surveyors are required to complete a minimum of 30 hours formal professional development training per annum under the terms of reference of their respective professional body (RICS, CIOB, CABE). In addition to this, Building Control operates under the Local Authority Building Control Quality Management System, which also requires Building Control Surveyors to agree and complete specific training and development tasks each year.</p>
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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(COUNCILLOR GRAHAM HINCHEY)

W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>What is the total cost to the Council for out of county placements for children in the care of Local Authority?</p>
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Can the answer please outline the number of children in out of county placements and the number of individual placements which exceed a cost of £100,000 per annum?

Reply

The Children's Services strategy has been driving forward a shift in the balance of care, ensuring more services are delivered in-house, more children are supported to live with family and friends and foster carers, and more children live within or close to Cardiff.

In Quarter 1 of this year, 28 (39%) of the 72 children who became looked after were in placements with parents, extended family or friends. This percentage has grown from 17% in 2016 to 37% in 2021.

Cardiff Children's Services have also embarked on a programme of developing residential homes for children in Cardiff, managed by council staff. Over the last 12 months, we have increased the number of children's homes from one to three and are planning to more than double that number over the next two years.

There are currently 992 children with a 'looked after' status, of which 349 are placed out of county (35.2%). Of these children placed out of county, 154 are in a neighbouring Local Authority. Of the 349 placed out of county, 50 (14%) are in kinship placements, 26 of which are in a neighbouring local authority.

There are 20 children placed with parents out of county, 4 of whom are in a neighbouring local authority. There are a further 12 children placed out of county in non-regulated placements (e.g. secure units, prison, independent living). None of whom are in a neighbouring local authority.

The total Children's Services budget for placements for children is £37.5 million, with an additional £1.03 million being spent on placements with family and friends. This budget is not disaggregated between geographical locations.

Costs of placements vary depending on the needs of the individual child. Children with the most complex needs may require a residential placement, which costs on average of £6,000 per week. Therefore, if a child was placed in a residential setting for 12 months that residential placement would cost in excess of £100,000.

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>When will the administration determine whether garden waste collections will continue through the winter?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The plan is for garden waste collections to continue until the end of November this year. This is an additional month to last year following concerns raised in relation to leaf fall.</p> <p>The administration will consider and confirm plans for garden waste collections over the winter months in the coming weeks, which will include the usual collection of used real Christmas trees in January 2022.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUDSON</u></p> <p>Yellow hygiene bags not being picked up are embarrassing residents as evidence of need. Can you reassure me that these will be given priority to be done early, on time, and on the correct day?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We understand the sensitivities surrounding the service, particularly for vulnerable service users who need support to dispose of incontinence waste. The hygiene rounds are a priority and supervisors are monitoring collections to ensure that the waste is collected as scheduled.</p> <p>When signing up for the service, users can request a discreet collection point, within their external property boundary, so that the waste does not need to be presented kerbside.</p> <p>In addition, we have recently been working in collaboration with the Dementia Friendly Cities Team and our new stock of hygiene bags will be purple. This is considered to be a more discreet colour, without the associated stigma that may be drawn from the yellow bags.</p>

For users with larger amounts of incontinence waste, we are now also able to offer a 140 or 240 litre wheeled bin, where properties have storage space available. If residents require these larger bins, they should contact C2C on (029) 2087 2087. A member of the team will then contact them to discuss any requests in a sensitive manner.

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

What evidence does the council have of increased rodent presence and activity at Roath Park Lake and other locations across the city?

What action is the council taking to control any increase in numbers to ensure any problem does not get out of control and to avoid risks to public health?

Reply

There will always be a residual rodent population in an environment such as Roath Park as it is an ideal habitat with ground cover, water courses and readily available food sources. However, a number of steps are being taken to keep the number of rats under control.

The Council's Pest Control Team has an annual contract to deal with rodents at Roath Park, which covers proactive visits, as well as call outs when issues arise or there is an increase in rat sightings. The team was alerted by members of the public and the Parks Services about an increase in rat sightings around June of this year and visits were scheduled to take place on a weekly basis to deal with the reported problem. Activity has decreased subsequently, but visits are still taking place on a weekly basis for the time being.

The difficulty in baiting an area such as this is the amount of food available to the rats, which means that any baiting programme is rendered less effective. Members of the public enjoy feeding the ducks and swans at the park, but are also providing a food source for rats, who will choose the more accessible food over the bait in secure boxes. Other food also has the effect of diluting any bait that they do eat.

The Council's Park Ranger Team does engage with people visiting Roath Park Lake about how their actions can contribute to the rat problem; however, the Council relies heavily on park users taking personal responsibility by not feeding wildfowl.

	<p>Any baiting must be done in a safe and secure manner taking into account park users and wildlife, and this means that getting on top of a problem can take longer than treatment in other locations. Some new litter bins have recently been purchased with baiting stations built-in underneath, which it is hoped will help further reduce the rat numbers.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Is the council prepared to apologise to Pentwyn residents, who will not in fact 'continue' to receive monthly garden waste collections, but instead will have waited 2 months by the time it is collected at the beginning of October?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Garden waste collections were modified in August 2021 to a 4-week collection cycle due to a shortage of Heavy Good Vehicle (HGV) drivers to deliver the service. Unfortunately, this meant that residents received only one collection in August, with the new cycle of planned 4-week collections commencing on 7th September 2021. The changes were needed to ensure that services could continue to be delivered and there were no impacts on other statutory collections.</p> <p>I can confirm that no ward in Cardiff has had to wait two months between garden waste collections and I am not aware of any households that have had to wait that long between collections; however, there may well be a small number who have for whatever reason, including putting their garden waste out for collection on the wrong day. Garden waste collections in Pentwyn took place on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned collection on 9th July 2021 – this took place on 9th & 10th July 2021. • Planned collection on 23rd July 2021 – this took place on 27th & 28th July 2021. • Planned collection on 6th August 2021 – this took place on 20th & 21st August 2021. <p>The next collection is due on Friday 1st October 2021.</p>
W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Does the council monitor the number of rats in the city (or reports of rats), if so, have they been increasing or decreasing over the past 5 years?</p>

Reply

The Council's Pest Control Team receives around 2,000-2,500 requests for service annually and the majority of these are bookings for individual properties/gardens and businesses, with the remainder relating to general rat sightings in streets or areas of the city. Whilst the team has seen a slight increase in the number of requests for service over the last couple of years, it is difficult to say if there has been an increase in rats in general in the city over recent years or if there are other reasons for it.

Not every person that has seen a rat or has a rat problem on their property will report it to the Council. They may lay bait themselves, use a private company to deal with the problem or simply ignore it. Any recent increase in the number of calls to the Pest Control Team may also be because people spent more time at home or walking in their locality during lockdown. This may have led to an increased number of rat sightings, but this doesn't necessarily mean that there are more rats than there were before, it's just that they are more visible.

It's likely that the pandemic has resulted in a shift in where rats have been seen or where they are getting their food from, particularly as many takeaway food outlets were closed and more people may have been feeding birds in their gardens or own more pets, which has meant a shift in the food sources available to rats and has brought them closer to people's properties.

The main reasons for rats being in an area are food, water and shelter, with food being the most important. Bird feeding, keeping outdoor pets such as chickens/rabbits, composting, poor waste management and dog excrement are all food sources for rats. Once they have found a regular food source, they will nest nearby and favourite places for them are under sheds and decking, as well as dense shrubbery. As rats can breed from 4 weeks old and have 5 to 12 pups in a litter and around 6 litters in a year, two rats can become over 1,000 in a 12-month period!

This means that everyone, particularly within an urban environment like Cardiff, has a responsibility to help deal with rats, particularly if they are providing a food source or harbourage at their property.

CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W8

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

The recent violence and damage in Bute Park is appalling. What is the Council doing to protect the park from future occurrences?

How is the Council planning to ensure these incidents do not damage the reputation of Bute Park and the wider city?

Reply

I share your sentiments and I can reaffirm that the Council is working proactively with stakeholders in its response. A number of actions to promote public safety in Bute Park have already been implemented or are in progress, including:

- The return to a regime that sees the daily locking of the North and West Gates within the park.
- Monthly “Cuppa with a Copper” sessions at park café venues, providing staff and park users with the opportunity to meet and share information with local Police Community Support Officers. I understand that these sessions are providing useful intelligence.
- The installation of additional CCTV cameras, which are scheduled to be deployed in and around Bute Park by South Wales Police in the coming weeks.
- The exploration of funding sources for additional crime detection, prevention and public safety initiatives.
- Plans are in train to include park businesses in the city’s business to business crime prevention radio network “CityNet”, which is supported by South Wales and British Transport Police. This important network allows business to share information “peer-to-peer” and with the police in real time, which will help remove any sense of isolation our park-based businesses may feel.
- The Community Safety Partnership, which includes Cardiff Council, South Wales Police and FOR Cardiff, provides a multi-agency response and problem solving to address complex issues, which can impact on safety and the perceived safety of

residents and visitors. Safety and perceived safety within our city centre parklands is a key work stream for the partnership.

- The Friends of Bute Park group is under new leadership and officers are supporting the group to ensure that their contribution supports our response, and I am confident that this can be achieved.

What I am heartened by is the community support witnessed at the “Reclaim Bute Park” event that was held on Saturday 18th September, which saw hundreds of people come out in support of the park and take part in a mass walk and picnic. This shows our citizens don’t stand for threats to the park that they know and love and will not allow a disruptive minority to affect the enjoyment of the majority. Following the event, a fundraising campaign has been set up to raise money to help put things right in the park, which we as a Council will also support in terms of resourcing. I understand that a community-led governance board is being established to oversee exactly where and how this money is directed.

In terms of our city-wide approach, the Council will continue to work on a multi-agency basis to address areas of concern. You may recall that, as part of the 2021/22 budget, growth in the Council’s Park Ranger service was allocated, recognising the important role that our Urban Park Rangers play in ensuring the safety of our parks. The increase in budget has enabled the employment of four additional staff and the ability to create capacity for enhanced locality working, whereby supervisory leads are aligned to neighbourhood policing areas. This approach will enable more effective partnership working.

The Council is also represented on the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, which will shortly submit an application for renewed Purple Flag status. This represents excellence in the management of the evening and night-time economy and, through this accreditation scheme, we will continue to work to help create safe and thriving locations at night for all users, particularly in and around the city centre.

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What support could the council offer to businesses on Whitchurch Road who would like to see a Christmas lights display along the road this year?

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council would be happy to speak to any local businesses or community groups about their proposals for a festive lights display on Whitchurch Road this Christmas. Whilst the Council has no specific budget for the provision of Christmas lights in district centres across the city, we would be happy to help facilitate any logistical requirements this year where practicable and appropriate. If you or any interested persons want to get in touch with me about this matter, then we will see how we can assist.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUDSON</u></p> <p>In the interests of promoting our green spaces, healthy lifestyles and exercise, can you tell me what is being done to upgrade the changing room/toilet facilities in Maes y Coed field off St Cenydd Road, Heath?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers have been working closely with St Joseph’s Football and Rugby Club sections to provide them with a home venue for their catchment area and, as a result, we have reconfigured the playing fields to accommodate both rugby and football. This ensures that use of the pitches is maximised for mini, junior and adult participation from the local community.</p> <p>I recognise that the onsite changing facilities need modernisation and officers are supporting both sections of the Club in pursuit of grant funding from the Welsh Rugby Union and Sport Wales to help deliver such improvements. I am optimistic about the prospects of securing grant funding and the continued improvement of the Club infrastructure.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>In the last few months, the overgrowth of vegetation onto pavements and footways has become an increasing problem for pedestrians and especially for residents using mobility aids as well as those with children in prams/ pushchairs. What action is the council taking to address this problem?</p> <p>What powers does the council have to intervene when this problem occurs as a result of the overgrowth of hedges and vegetation from private properties?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has powers under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 whereby statutory notices can issued requiring landowners to cut back and clear any vegetation that is obstructing the areas that you describe and impeding the user groups highlighted. Routine inspections are undertaken by the Highways Service and the Council is active in issuing notices to landowners throughout the city, with the enforcement function being delivered by the Parks Service. If there are any specific areas in your ward that present a cause for concern, then I would suggest contacting the Parks Service by email: parks@cardiff.gov.uk.</p>
W12	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></p> <p>Could the council look at possible new sites in Pentwyn for an outdoor exercise area as the previous site can no longer be used due to its location next to a children's playground at Coed y Nant Park near Pentwyn leisure centre?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We will consider this when developing our future capital programme given that legislation now prevents outdoor gyms from being located alongside children's play areas. With the refurbishment of Pentwyn Leisure Centre and alternative operation, there is an opportunity to work with the operator to design and build an outdoor gym with the potential for structured group and individual coaching. I will ask officers to explore this opportunity further and update local ward members accordingly.</p>
W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>We have seen the shocking reports of the damage by vandals to Bute Park. We have also seen the damage to the park in Trowbridge and Caedelyn Park. Over a period of time, Insole Court, one of the Cardiff's finest buildings, has seen more than its share of damage to its unique architecture in the public areas, that will take considerable sums to reinstate. Protection of the Insole Court building is the responsibility of the Trust, who are spending large sums to protect it. However, security of the public areas at Insole Court is an ongoing issue, as it is in parks across the city. So what measures are the council taking to protect not only Insole Court parkland, but all our parklands, from the minority that are intent on spoiling it for those residents that use them?</p>

Reply

I was appalled to hear of the nature of the incidents being experienced at Insole Court and, as you may be aware, officers from my portfolio area are working closely with the Insole Court Trust to put in any measures that are practicable to mitigate.

The Council has shared – and will continue to share – information with South Wales Police city-wide, developing strategies for intervention and local problem solving. You may recall that as part of the 2021/22 budget, growth in the Council's Park Ranger service was allocated, recognising the important role that our Urban Park Rangers in particular play in ensuring the safety of our parks. The increase in budget has enabled the employment of four additional staff and the ability to create capacity for enhanced locality working, whereby supervisory leads are aligned to neighbourhood policing areas. This approach will enable more effective partnership working.

I can also report that the Community Safety Partnership is active in identifying solutions to issues that exist and has undertaken an initial audit of lighting, with a particular focus on the safety of women and girls, and routes home from the night-time economy encompassing our city centre parklands. This exercise is designed to inform funding bids for safety improvements.

The sense of anger and frustration is widely felt, but we must recognise, as you indicate, that it is the minority, a very small mindless minority, who are creating such circumstances and the Council will continue to do all it can to prevent that minority from putting park users at risk and spoiling the enjoyment of our parks.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

With Neath Port Talbot and Swansea councils asking schools to re-introduce Covid-19 restrictions due to rising case numbers, can Cardiff Council confirm what the criteria is for doing so here, and whether any schools are currently nearing that threshold?

Reply

With case numbers rising across Cardiff, although at a lesser rate than other parts of Wales, and with implications for the health and social care sectors, the decision has been taken to raise the risk level across all schools in Cardiff to high level.

At this level, there is an expectation that staff wear face coverings where social distancing is not possible and that all staff, as well as learners in secondary schools, are encouraged to take twice weekly Lateral Flow Device tests. In addition, being at a high risk level allows more localised decision making on a wider suite of mitigations shared by the Council with schools, which can be put in place where cases are particularly high.

The current thinking from both Welsh Government and Public Health Wales is that society needs to learn to live with Covid and action will only be taken in very specific circumstances at this point. Currently, our case rate is low and reflective of rates in the community, but the situation is being carefully monitored.

Further guidance has been issued to Cardiff schools on additional mitigations that can be put in place if cases at a local level warrant it. Schools are supported in their decisions by council officers.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARKHILL

How many Cardiff residents are currently in Council tax arrears, how many are being pursued for non-payment utilising legal means, what is the estimated cost of these legal proceedings and how does this compare with the previous two financial years?

Reply

So far in this financial year, the Council has issued 38,800 council tax reminder and final notices. The Council has also issued court summonses in respect of 2,720 council tax accounts and the estimated cost of this action is just over £70.00 per account.

Costs of £70.00, which is the maximum amount that councils are permitted to charge, are added to a customer's account where a court summons is issued.

Please see the table below for a comparison with the previous two financial years:

Period	Reminder and final notices	Court summonses
1/4/21 to 15/9/21	38,800	2,720
1/4/20 to 15/9/20	38,030	0
1/4/19 to 15/9/19	31,583	5,735

The reason why no court action had been taken up to this point last year was due to the impact of the pandemic on customers, as well as council and court services.

Figures for 2019 are more indicative of the level of debt collection that is usually required and, as both the Council and Court are able to further restart services, it is anticipated that the level of court action will increase.

W16

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

How much money has the Council borrowed in the past 24 months and what was the money used to fund?

Can the answer please outline a list of projects which were funded through borrowed capital, the duration of the loans and the ongoing cost of servicing these loans?

Reply

Unless the Council receives loans for specific projects (e.g. from Welsh Government), it does not generally borrow for individual projects; however, this may be considered for large future projects where deemed relevant.

The Council undertakes long-term borrowing to meet its long-term Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is determined by the historic and future levels of capital investment approved by Council on the basis that it would be paid for by borrowing. Forecasts and timing are updated annually as part of the budget in respect of the CFR, as well as other prudential indicators.

The costs of undertaking capital investment paid for by borrowing is charged to the revenue budget for the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account in respect of Council Dwellings and comprises two elements:

- any interest payable, and
- Prudent Provision for Repayment of Capital Expenditure based on the policy approved each year by Council and in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.

A report to Council is provided three times a year on Treasury Management and borrowing activities – a strategy at the start of the year, a mid-year report and an outturn report. The Council's Governance and Audit Committee also undertakes scrutiny of Treasury Management activities.

Changes to the Capital Financing System some years ago allowed local authorities to set their own levels of capital investment paid for by borrowing, based on what is deemed affordable, prudent and sustainable. It also allowed projects that deliver significant service improvements or regeneration to be taken forward where investment pays back any initial investment through additional income or savings, following approval of a robust business case.

The Capital Strategy and Investment Programme, which is approved by Council each year, highlights the overall borrowing requirement for the general programme and the level of borrowing supported by Welsh Government as part of the Revenue Support Grant. It also lists individually all projects that are to be taken forward on an 'invest to earn' or 'invest to save' basis. This can be seen in Annex 3 of the Budget Report to Council in March 2021 and will be updated in March 2022.

Interest rates on loans are driven by the financial markets and wider economic factors; however, they are currently at low rates in comparison with previous years and provide long term certainty where projects are approved to proceed. Rates are updated and monitored as part of updates to the strategy.

Since 1 April 2019, the following external loans have been received or taken, with the main source being the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) as the recognised cheapest source of loans (some loans have been grouped):

Financial Year	Source	Average Interest Rate	Principal Payable on Maturity	Average Duration (Years)
2019/20	WG – Town Centre Loans & Salix & City Deal Housing Fund	0%	£12.810m	15
	Financial Market - Short Term Red Dragon Centre	1.45%	£58.250m	2
	PWLB	1.42%	£40.000m	46
2020/21	WG – Town Centre Loans	0%	£1.738m	14
	WG – Salix (Energy)	0%	£1.373m	6
2021/22	WG – Salix (Energy)	0%	£0.441m	5
	PWLB	1.67%	£20.000m	48

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Can you share the details of the council's agreement with Redrow as part of the Assisted Home Ownership Scheme?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As a requirement of its planning permissions and obligations, Redrow has to deliver a percentage of affordable housing as part of its new developments in Cardiff in line with current planning policy (i.e. the adopted Local Development Plan 2006-2026 and Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations).</p>
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The affordable housing secured is normally a mixture of tenures and will deliver both rented and assisted home ownership units for first time buyers. Affordable housing is a planning obligation, which is secured in the Section 106 legal agreements.

The assisted home ownership units delivered by Redrow are advertised by the Council to those who have already registered their interest on a specific list and, more generally, on the Council's website. On occasion, units may be advertised via social media. These assisted home ownership units are available on a shared equity basis for first time buyers who live or work in Cardiff and are finding it difficult to get onto the property ladder.

The scheme allows a purchaser nominated by the Council (subject to meeting our eligibility criteria) to buy 100% of a property for a percentage of its open market value, typically 70%; with the remaining 30% share set as a charge against the property, which would be repayable to the Council or sometimes a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) when the property is bought outright. Purchasers of a shared equity property have all the rights and responsibilities of a homebuyer.

The Council is also working with other major housebuilders who are obligated to deliver assisted home ownership units secured in planning permissions. The number of major housebuilders involved is increasing as the large strategic sites in the city are built out.

W18

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

There have been notably increases in break-ins at local businesses. What is being done protect our local businesses and assure their safety in collaboration with South Wales Police?

Reply

The Community Safety Partnership, facilitated by the Council as part of our wider Cardiff Public Services Board arrangements, benefits from representation from, as well as a close working relationship with, both South Wales Police and FOR Cardiff.

The police regularly update the partnership on key trends, which with the lifting of lockdown restrictions has recently included a marked increase in commercial burglaries. This issue has been raised in forums under Community Safety Partnership governance, including the Problem Solving Group, which is a one-year pilot of a multi-agency problem solving group that seeks to address complex situational issues.

A targeted approach has been implemented, such as in Roath and Cathays, where the local police team has initiated Operation Henbane. This has seen a combination of overt and covert patrols taking place overnight, in addition to the response teams, which has included:

- Neighbourhood police teams proactively visiting shops providing reassurance and crime prevention advice.
- A centralised team from the neighbourhood police team who have collated information from all the burglaries, including sharing images from CCTV etc. to aid identification.
- Sharing information with Operational Support Team (specialists such as Roads Policing, Dogs Teams etc.) who have been increasing patrols in the evenings.
- #Ophenbane has been circulated on social media together with advice on how to report any suspicious activity, as well as details of positive results from this initiative.

The police have made several arrests for the burglaries, alongside continuing actions to compare positive forensic links to a pool of past and potential offenders of note. They are also continuing to share public messaging regarding patterns of crime and crime prevention advice. Specialist crime reduction tactical officer visits have been offered where it is identified by attending officers that there is further specific advice which could be of benefit, as well as utilising networks to spread messaging regarding target hardening via business social media accounts through the support of organisations such as Federation of Small Businesses.

The Community Safety Partnership is committed to exploring further ways in which partners can work together to secure positive results and we are currently investigating whether we can utilise information held by the Council, such as business rates, to enable another route for quick, targeted engagement with businesses that may be at risk of, or have experienced burglaries, in order to offer support and advice.

W19

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

65 Mynachdy Road has been left derelict for several years following a fire, it has since attracted fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and has had a significant negative impact on the wellbeing of nearby residents. What powers, such as compulsory purchase, do the council have to force the return of the property to a good state of repair and for it to be occupied once again, and importantly how quickly can this situation be resolved?

Reply

The property in question was extensively damaged by a fire and has been identified previously as one of the problem long-term empty homes in the city for further enforcement action. A notice was served previously under Section 76 of the Building Act 1984 to address the missing roof cover and repairs to the structure and, more recently, under both the Prevention of Damage Pest Act 1949 in relation to the rubbish and overgrown garden and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to secure the building from trespass. The owner has, in each case, taken steps to comply with the notices; however, due to contractor issues, the building roof structure is still not fully watertight, the rainwater goods are missing and the internal structure of the building is still in an unsafe condition.

Officers have met recently on site with the owner to discuss the current condition and proposed redevelopment of the building following the planning permission that was granted in April 2018. As the owner is currently making some progress and engaging with the Council to resolve the derelict state of the property, further escalation of enforcement options, such as a compulsory purchase, is not being pursued at the current time. Should this fail to progress satisfactorily, then further enforcement action will be considered.

W20

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

What, if any, engagement has the council had with Cardiff's universities prior to the start of the next academic year to try and minimise noise, waste, and parking issues from both new and returning students. In particular, the recurrence of significant issues with late night noise experienced during 2020-21 from the large Talybont residencies in Gabalfa Ward?

Reply

Prior to the start of the new term, a series of meetings, training sessions and events have been taking place involving the Student Liaison Officer, together with other representatives from Cardiff Council, Shared Regulatory Services (SRS), South Wales Police and the Universities and Student Unions to discuss issues including noise, waste and parking. These discussions have successfully resulted in a renewed commitment to working in partnership to tackle student related issues and to develop more opportunities for students to have a positive impact on their communities. The Leader of the Council is also due to meet next month with the Universities' Vice Chancellors.

The Universities and Student Unions will support the Council in the delivery of advice campaigns, hosting of events and activities to engage with students on these issues and exploring opportunities to undertake collaborative research and best practice development to address student-community issues. Further engagement with the Universities and other partners will take place throughout the academic year and summer period with an ongoing commitment to proactively work with the student population and address any issues as they arise.

In relation to Cardiff University's student halls, the University's Accommodation and Student Conduct Teams have met with South Wales Police and SRS to discuss how their Accommodation Management and Security will mitigate noise and other forms of anti-social behaviour within their sites. It is anticipated that the measures being put into place by the University, as well as the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, will greatly reduce anti-social behaviour incidents compared to the previous year.

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W21

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

As the Council embarks on an ambitious project to develop an indoor arena at Cardiff Bay, on the car park of County Hall. Will the Cabinet Member give assurances to the Council that no private property, including privately-owned dwellings will be Compulsory Purchased by the Council as part of this project, including any associated or axillary scheme?

Reply

The Councillor will be aware that the report considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 September 2021 provided for the use of the Council's compulsory purchase powers to acquire land not in the Council's ownership to facilitate the development of the arena project. I can, however, confirm that the Council has no intention of using those powers to acquire private dwellings.

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

What work is the council doing to assist hospitality businesses outside of the city centre in their recovery?

Reply

The Council has worked closely with colleagues in Welsh Government to provide direct support to the hospitality sector across the city. Some £130m of grants have been administered by the Council, the majority of which have been paid to businesses within the hospitality and retail sectors operating outside of the city centre.

Through our Visit Cardiff Network (VCN), the Council is participating more actively promoting the city's district centres, with most of the VCN members based outside of the city centre. The Council is also developing a dedicated marketing campaign for district centres to promote those neighbourhoods to visitors.

In addition, the Council continues to invest Council and Welsh Government funding in district and local centres, including public realm, transport and regeneration schemes completed in Cowbridge Road East, Wellfield Road, Merthyr Road and a major transport and regeneration project currently on site in Tudor Street.

In line with this approach, the Administration, through its draft renewal strategy, *Greener, Fairer, Stronger*, has raised the need to further support the sustainable development of the city's neighbourhoods as the city recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W23	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>At Cardiff Council, would-be developers can pay a fee to have a ‘confidential and without prejudice’ discussion with the Planning Department regarding a potential planning application or what applications may be permitted at certain locations. Elected Members are not permitted to know the detail or advice given during these ‘discussions’. Moreover, if an application is subsequently submitted, it is often allocated to the same Council Officer who provided the initial advice. Does the Leader of the Council share my significant concern regarding these existing arrangements and would he outline his plans on how he will address these practices and ensure greater transparency takes place in respects to these ‘discussions’?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There is a statutory Welsh Government pre-application advice process for all Local Planning Authorities in Wales. Advice regarding this process is publicly available on the Planning pages of the Council’s website. This is custom and practice in all Local Planning Authorities and it would be extraordinary for a professional officer to not be the allocated case officer in the event that any formal planning application is submitted. This in no way prejudices the role of professional officers nor the Local Planning Authority in determining planning applications.</p>
W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>With Covid-19 case numbers rising at an alarming rate even before schools reopened, what is Cardiff Council's position on not having a firebreak lockdown during half term?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government confirmed earlier this month that there are currently no plans for a firebreak lockdown in Wales in the autumn, with the First Minister saying that: “<i>The last thing we want is further lockdowns and for businesses to have to close their doors once again.</i>” I am also aware that the Chief Medical Officer for Wales has said that he is hopeful that Wales can avoid another lockdown, but he has not ruled it out.</p>

Clearly, if a further firebreak lockdown was to take place during the half term holiday period next month, then it would help to reduce any further disruption to the education of our children and young people, but, at the same time, it would also have a significant impact on businesses and public services in Wales.

We are still at Alert Level Zero in Wales, but we are currently seeing an increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases across Wales, including in Cardiff, as the pandemic progresses. The number of people admitted to hospital with Covid-19 has also risen steadily over recent weeks, resulting in increased pressures on our health and social care system more widely.

It is hoped that the number of cases will peak shortly due to the continued rollout of vaccinations, including booster vaccinations. The position continues to be monitored closely by the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, with a review of the Coronavirus regulations in Wales taking place every three weeks. An announcement of any changes to the current position in Wales is expected to be made by the Welsh Government on 7/8 October 2021 following the next review.

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

W25

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Were there any care homes in Cardiff which drafted in staff who had Covid-19 to care for their residents?

What contingency was in place regarding any likelihood of this scenario occurring in Cardiff?

Reply

At the height of the pandemic, discussions took place with Public Health Wales should Cardiff be faced with situations where care homes were unable to continue to safely care for its residents due to large numbers of staff testing positive for Covid-19. However, it was not necessary to give consideration to utilise such an approach in Cardiff.

A number of contingency arrangements were put in place to support care homes to mitigate the risks of serious staffing shortages. The applicable contingency arrangements to avert the need for this scenario to occur are as follows:

- A rigorous review of care home Business Continuity Plans was undertaken by the Social Services Commissioning & Contracts Team to ensure providers had plans in place to enable them to maintain continuity of care in situations of extreme staff shortages. These arrangements include, agreements with staff recruitment agencies able to supply the provider with suitably experienced agency staff at short notice (including nursing staff, and social care workers).
- Multi-agency supportive meetings that provide a multi-disciplinary approach to supporting a care home to safely manage Covid-19 and achieve business continuity during a Covid outbreak situation.
- The deployment of Adult Services' managers and care workers to coordinate and deliver care alongside the provider's staff where insufficient care home staff are available to meet the needs of residents.
- The deployment of staff from other directorates to address non-care related gaps in a provider's workforce, such as deploying chefs from the Events Team to replace absent cooks and ensure the delivery of meals to residents.

These arrangements continue to be monitored and improved where possible to ensure that residents in residential homes in Cardiff remain safe despite the considerable challenges that the virus continues to present.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W26

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

For what purpose do we have cones restricting parking on Lake Road West and East, apart from moving traffic onto residential roads?

Reply

As you know, the cones were removed on 22nd August 2021. They were put in place under a temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the suspension of parking to create additional space for social distancing during the Covid-19 lockdown. Keeping the area clear of vehicles meant that people were able to access the park in safety for leisure and daily exercise during the periods of lockdown.

W27

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PHILLIPS

In response to a question at July council, from Cllr Mia Rees, Cllr Wild stated 'we have actually had air quality monitoring stations or tubes in every primary school as we promised to do as part of our Clean Air Plan'. This statement was categorically not true. The question was asked on behalf of a Coryton Primary School parent group, who were referenced in the question.

SRS have stated to us 'Unfortunately Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of Cardiff Council do not currently carry out any air quality monitoring as part of the LAQM (Local Air Quality Monitoring) network for the specific area of interest (Junction 32 or Pendwyallt Road / Park Road, Whitchurch).' It is fact that there are only 9 schools specifically included in air quality monitoring.

1. Will you apologise to the parents and children at Coryton Primary School for giving an incorrect response?
2. Will you apologise to council for giving an incorrect response and put on record that Cardiff Council has not yet installed AQMs at all schools?
3. Please explain how, given the focus on air quality and health, you were so ill-informed in giving the answer you did?
4. Provide a full report within three months on how you have delivered on the commitments made following the motion on air quality brought forward by the Conservative group, in November 2017.

Reply

I can advise you that I have apologised and addressed these issues directly with Cllr Mia Rees. I will share the information that I provided to her.

	<p>In terms of question 4 above about the Council's wider air quality commitments, these matters are addressed in our Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report. The 2021 report is due to be considered by Cabinet in November 2021.</p>
W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>As part of the Local Development Plan, large swathes of land between Pontprennau and Lisvane are being developed for housing. Residential streets on Pontprennau are already plagued by constant congestion, with commuters using Pontprennau roads to access Eastern Avenue and the M4 Motorway at Cardiff Gate. Recent plans, if taken forward will see an access road into Cardiff Gate Business Park at St Mellons Road. This link road would reduce large volumes of vehicles travelling through residential streets in Pontprennau. However, the Council are advising this new link road will be for buses only. With approximately 4,500 dwellings due to be built between Pontprennau and Lisvane the present infrastructure is inadequate. What plans are in place to improve infrastructure and connectivity and why can't private vehicles have access to this new link road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I am aware that the Local Planning Authority is currently considering a planning application for land east of Lisvane and west of Pontprennau, which has been submitted by Taylor Wimpey Homes. This application has yet to be determined. Any planning application within this location will be considered against relevant planning policies, including Local Development Plan Policy KP2(F). Paragraph 4.72 of the adopted LDP provides further detail, alongside Policy T2 to support the delivery of Strategic Rapid Transit and Bus Corridors.</p>
W29	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>There are no pavements connecting roads off Africa Gardens and Africa Gardens itself is unsafe for pedestrians. Can any details of potential safety schemes be shared with residents for consultation?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I am aware of the area that you refer to in your question. The construction of pavements to link Africa Gardens with its connecting streets is desirable in principle, although it would result in the removal of space that is currently used by residents for car parking.</p>

	<p>For this reason, this measure should be considered in the context of the review of on-street parking in the area west of Whitchurch Road, which we plan to undertake following the implementation of Cycleway 1.2 and proposed parking changes linked to that scheme.</p>
W30	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the council consider St Joseph's school, accessible via Heathfield Road and Heathfield Place, for a future school street scheme?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I have asked officers to look into this and I will inform you of their findings. However, I am aware that establishing a School Street may not be easy in this location due to the street layout surrounding the school where there are a number of rear access lanes and cul-de-sacs in the area.</p> <p>It will also be necessary to consider where cars that are denied access along Heathfield Road and Heathfield Place might be diverted to and the impacts of this displacement. For example, there is a pathway leading directly to the school from the blocked end of Maitland Street. It would not be desirable for a large number of cars to seek access along this narrow, heavily parked cul-de-sac in order to park or drop-off children during the school peak.</p> <p>If, indeed, it is not feasible to establish a School Street, it may be possible to introduce parking restrictions within the immediate vicinity of the school to help tackle issues with school traffic and parking.</p>
W31	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>With the publication of the Active Travel Plan consultation, and given the wide-ranging implications of the developments proposed, how is the administration ensuring that the consultation is advertised as widely as possible to the general public?</p> <p>Can the administration confirm that community and voluntary groups and other organisations have been invited to respond directly as was the case for the recent consultation on the Local Development Plan?</p>

Reply

The draft Cardiff Active Travel Network Map is currently out for public consultation until 31st October 2021. Comments on these and other proposed routes can be made via [Cardiff Active Travel Network Map | Commonplace](#). Stakeholders have been contacted to notify them about the consultation, including those stakeholders usually notified for transport consultations and anyone who has requested notification about the consultation in accordance with the requirements set out in the Active Travel Act.

W32

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Residents in Cyncoed and Lakeside complain regularly about pavement parking by cars and other vehicles. This often causes an obstruction to pedestrians and cyclists. Can the administration confirm when legislation prohibiting parking on the pavement by motorised vehicles will be implemented?

Reply

Pavement parking is currently only permitted where marked in London. Following the report of a Task & Finish Group to look at the issues of pavement parking, the Welsh Government recently announced that Pavement Parking legislation would be included in the current legislative programme. The indicative timetable for the law being enacted is likely to be 2022, with the Statutory Instrument required for this to be passed by October 2021. Welsh Government guidance on how the new law would be implemented is also expected to be published.

There are a number of additional elements that will need to be addressed, including changes to the Highway Code and updating of the Traffic Regulation Signs Regulations and General Directions (2016) where appropriate. In order to apply the new law, Cardiff Council will need to use the new guidance to:

- Identify where pavement parking can be tolerated;
- Commence Traffic Regulation Orders as appropriate in accordance with guidance;
- Identify resources for any extension of enforcement and how this will be done; and
- Update the Council's policies appropriately – with reference to the Welsh Government guidance.

W33	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>Whilst we welcome Active Travel schemes, not all people can cycle or walk for miles, what is happening to improving public transport (the most accessible mode of transport) and returning bus services on Lake Road West and Celyn Avenue?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The current situation regarding bus services is that very few services have returned to profitability and they require financial support from the Welsh Government's Bus Emergency Scheme. In practice, this means that the pre-Covid network of bus services in the city is retained and it is very difficult to obtain approval for any network changes, such as returning services to Lake Road West and Celyn Avenue, which would need additional financial support.</p> <p>The Council is currently reviewing the bus service network in preparation for a post-Covid landscape and will work closely with Cardiff Bus and other commercial bus operators. We have recently approved a technical report, which set out possible future actions to improve bus services and increase bus usage across the city. A related public consultation will commence shortly, which will set out these actions and ask respondents which they think are the most important to improve bus services in Cardiff. The responses will be used to prepare a new Bus Strategy for Cardiff, which will set out how the Council, together with bus operators, will seek to improve services and increase bus use in the city.</p>
W34	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></p> <p>At what stage will local Councillors, local interest groups and local residents be consulted on detailed plans regarding roads and walkways around the Lake and local woodlands i.e. Nant Fawr woods?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers are investigating feasibility and options for the development of segregated cycle lanes along the Roath Recreation Ground and Roath Park Lake corridor. These facilities would connect with the planned segregated cycle lanes along Richmond Road and Albany Road and form part of a strategic cycle route linking the city centre with north-east Cardiff. Public engagement on the initial proposals (including options) is likely to take place towards the end of 2021/early 2022.</p>

The draft Cardiff Active Travel Network Map is currently out for public consultation until 31st October 2021. The draft Map includes proposals for future walking and cycling routes through the Nant Fawr corridor. Comments on these and other proposed routes can be made via [Cardiff Active Travel Network Map | Commonplace](#). Proposed routes on the Active Travel Network Map will be subject to further design work and further public consultation will be undertaken on these designs at the appropriate time.

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

Most major cities in UK are operating Clean Air Zones, which allows all forms of low emission and less polluting modes of transport. Why is Cardiff failing to implement schemes to improve air quality?

Reply

This is simply not the case. Outside of London, only Bath and Birmingham have implemented Clean Air Zones, with one in Portsmouth due to be launched in November 2021. Some other cities have Low Emission Zones, but it is certainly not the case that most cities in the UK are operating Clean Air Zones.

A Clean Air Zone was considered alongside other measures for Cardiff, but as we could demonstrate that non-charging measures would ensure compliance, a charging zone was not deemed appropriate.

In order to improve the air quality in Cardiff, action needs to be taken across the city as a whole. As a result, the Council has developed and published a Clean Air Plan in compliance with a legal direction that was issued by Welsh Government in 2018. This direction required the Council to develop a plan to address air quality concerns as a number of road links in Cardiff were forecasted to exceed the legal limits for NO₂ beyond 2021 if no additional action was taken.

Our plan and associated funding were fully approved by Welsh Ministers and this plan will implement a number of measures to reduce NO₂ and particulate matter across Cardiff. These include:

- Implementation of Electric Buses – 36 Electric Buses to be implemented on a number of routes within the City Centre;
- Bus Retro Fitting Programme to clean up older polluting buses;
- Taxi Grant Support for Drivers to upgrade to ULEVs;
- City Centre Transportation Improvements; and

- Further Active Travel Measures.

These measures have been assessed to not only ensure compliance with the legal levels for NO₂ by the end of 2021, but also to ensure that levels across the city are further reduced in order to protect and improve the health of our citizens. The implementation of these measures was benchmarked against the option to implement a Clean Air Zone and the assessment indicated that the implementation of these measures would be effective and ensure compliance.

The Council is very aware of the concerns about air quality and recognises that there is no defined “safe level” when describing levels of air quality. Recent public health concerns have focussed on elevated nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels and we are committed to achieving levels as low as reasonably practicable by demonstrating levels beyond the annual objective set for NO₂.

We are also committed to further improving air quality and reducing congestion within the city and we have commissioned an initial study looking at further measures to reduce congestion. In accordance with our transport vision, this will not rule out looking at forms of road user charging.

W36

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PHILLIPS

In response to an oral question at full council in June 2021, Cabinet Member Caro Wild stated that ward-specific analysis of the Castle Street consultation had been completed, and that it had been sent to me. This was not correct. Ward specific analysis had not been undertaken as part of the consultation report; only Riverside and Canton ward returns had been reported on. To date I have not been sent the information the Cabinet Member told council I was already in receipt of. What is the current status of this analysis, when will it be released and will you commit to releasing the full dataset; if not, why not?

Reply

In replying to your question on my statement at Council in June 2021, I had been advised that the information that you had requested had either had been sent to you or you would receive it shortly. I also said that I could check for you if you wanted to get in contact with me, but you haven't until now. Clearly, there has been a breakdown of communications somewhere along the line and I will ask officers to provide you with the requested information as soon as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PHILLIPS

Residents in Victoria Road, Whitchurch have significant concerns about parking issues, principally caused by customers to a chip shop on the corner of Victoria Road and Old Church Road. Whitchurch and Tongwynlais members have for some time been discussing this issue with officers, who have conveyed the difficulty under county policies to effect any meaningful solutions. We have consistently pressed for a solution. On the 17th August 2021 the Cardiff North MP, following a visit to Victoria Road with the Cabinet Member responsible (which we had not been courteously informed of), published a letter to Victoria Road residents stating that 'Caro Wild would report back with some measures to address these issue'. We were really pleased that residents could expect a resolution. On the 26th August, residents received an email from officers telling them nothing could be done. Why are Victoria Road residents being messed about and mis-informed; what solution will you implement and when?

Reply

A site meeting with the Member of Parliament for Cardiff North took place in July 2021 to discuss issues that she raised on behalf of residents in the street and, whilst potential options were discussed, nothing was decided at the time; however, I have discussed the concerns raised by local residents with officers.

As you will be aware, there is an 'except for access' Order in place on Victoria Road, which is not enforceable by camera due to the bend in the road. This means that we are not able to determine if any motorists parking there are legitimately accessing properties on the street; however, Civil Enforcement Officers will aim to attend this location as frequently as possible in order to enforce the existing restrictions. With regard to parking across dropped kerbs, Civil Enforcement Officers are also able to enforce this offence, but will only do so if they receive a specific complaint from the resident affected.

In terms of residents' parking, the Council provides residents' parking schemes in streets where the majority of residents have no alternative but to park their vehicles on-street and where the typical parking conditions throughout the week justify a level of assistance. Given that the significant majority of properties on Victoria Road have off-street parking, this means that the street is not eligible for such a scheme; however, even if the parking criteria were met, residents who have off-street parking would not be entitled to permits.

The safety record at this location has been reviewed. In the last five-year period, there have been no recorded personal injury collisions on the Police database. We are, however, aware that parking does occasionally take place on the existing junction protection marked by double yellow lines. In order to improve this situation, we will progress a 'loading ban' Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This project will be added to the future programme of similar TRO measures and, at present, I cannot provide you with a timeframe for this.

I understand that responses to residents' queries have been consistent over the years in confirming that options are very limited for this street, as detailed above. I am sure you will agree that the combination of residents' parking and the need to support a valued local business creates a challenging situation. I would therefore like to invite ward members to attend a meeting with officers to review the issues and look at what options are available.

W38

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE

In October 2019, the administration amended a notice of motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat group. The amendment required Cabinet to ensure the future LDP review considered the impact of:

- 1) adopting the UK Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Buildings framework definition; and
- 2) signing up to the World Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment.

Could you outline the work done so far against these specific commitments?

Reply

The replacement LDP is at an early stage of preparation, with adoption of the new plan planned for the end of 2024. The Council consulted on a draft vision, issues and objectives for the replacement plan over the summer and work continues on building the evidence base for the plan.

I can confirm the vision and objectives being presented at this month's Council meeting include a commitment to become a carbon neutral city by 2030 in line with our One Planet Cardiff Strategy. In order to achieve this, the replacement plan will set out how Cardiff will become a zero-carbon city and seek ways to combat the impacts

	<p>of climate change, including policies to deliver zero carbon developments. In addition, the replacement plan will require new homes to be zero carbon by 2025.</p> <p>These objectives will be worked up further as the plan develops over the coming months, with consultation on strategic options in the autumn and consultation on the Preferred Strategy in October 2022 following consideration by Cabinet and Council in September 2022. This work will consider best practice and benchmarks from across the UK and ongoing evidence base work, including the findings and actions set out in a Scoping Paper on low carbon construction prepared in connection with the One Planet Cardiff Strategy that was published in May 2021.</p>
W39	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOYLE</u></p> <p>What research has the Council carried out into the urban heat island phenomenon and the implications this has for city centre planning?</p> <p>How might it inform approaches to urban planning and design in Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government has asked all Local Planning Authorities in Wales to produce Green Infrastructure Assessments and the Council is currently preparing such an assessment as part of the evidence base work to inform the preparation of the replacement LDP.</p> <p>Part of this assessment requires Local Planning Authorities to assess whether there are areas at risk from urban heat island effect, or areas where this is likely to become a problem in the future and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.</p> <p>The replacement LDP is at an early stage of preparation, with adoption of the new plan planned for the end of 2024. The Council consulted on a draft vision, issues and objectives for the replacement plan over the summer.</p> <p>The vision and objectives being presented at this month's Council meeting include a commitment to combat the impacts of climate change, including heat islands, and this objective will be worked up over the coming months as the plan develops, taking into account the findings of the Green Infrastructure Assessment outlined above.</p>

W40

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

I'm really grateful to the Highways Team who have delivered the excellent speed reduction scheme on Western Avenue. I also welcome the additional notices I requested informing drivers of the new 30mph limits. Despite the welcome reduction of the speed limit along Western Avenue from 40 to 30mph and the additional signage, there have still been a number of serious accidents where sadly people have been seriously injured. Besides police enforcement, which I have requested, what more can the council do to inform drivers of the new speed limits and to slow the traffic, because traffic is still travelling at high speed, so will the council install:

- VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs);
- Additional 30mph discs on lampposts; and
- Mobile Electronic information Board (as was installed in Pontcanna to remind drivers of that new 20mph limit introduced on Penhill Road/Cathedral Road)?

Reply

I am acutely aware of the recent collisions on this section of Western Avenue. The reduction in the speed limit on this section of highway is comparatively recent and it may be that it will take time for driver behaviour to change. However, I can advise that officers will shortly be undertaking new traffic speed surveys on Western Avenue to assess the vehicle speeds following the recent change in the speed limit. We will then review this information, in conjunction with GoSafe, to assess whether additional measures such as Vehicle Activated Signs are deemed necessary.

We are not legally permitted to install 30mph repeater signs where there is a system of street lighting in place. A message informing motorists about the change in the speed limit was displayed on the permanent electronic information signs on the A48. When we have the new speed survey data, we shall review whether this message can be repeated.

W41

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

In response to my supplementary question regarding a proposed development at De Braose Close, Danescourt, that is still at an application stage and will at some time in the future come before the planning committee, you said:

“The councillor will be pleased to know I have already visited the site with members of the planning committee to see the concerns raised and I'm happy that they are following as you know and it's important to note that this is about water and sewerage services for houses obviously something that we need to make sure we provide to citizens.”

As the local Councillor, I am not pleased to know, or informed you had this meeting with planning committee members, nor is my ward colleague. Can you tell me, when did you go to the application site in Danescourt, what members of the planning committee were in attendance and what was discussed and is it normal for the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport to have a site meeting with planning committee members, ahead of determination of an application and will those planning committee members have to declare an interest at any future determination of this application for housing?

Reply

I can confirm that I have not visited the site with any members of the Planning Committee; however, I did visit the site with the former Head of Planning on our way by bike to see the progress of development across the Plasdŵr site in North West Cardiff. I apologise for the inaccuracy in my response to your supplementary question at the Council meeting in June 2021.

W42

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

There is currently no suitable disabled access to Waungron Park Station. Wheelchair users, the disabled, the infirm and the elderly find it very difficult to access the steep slope to the station. I have raised this in a meeting I had with officers of Transport for Wales that met with myself and my colleague at Waungron Station. Unfortunately, they say they have no room or the funds available to install a disabled lift to the platform. Now that the Council have proposals to put a Transport Interchange adjacent to Waungron Park Station, will the council be making plans for the disabled passengers that will use the bus interchange to change mode of transport to and from bus to rail, by installing disabled access from the bus Interchange to rail or at least provide or set aside the room to install a disabled lift when funds become available?

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Improvements to Waungron Park station are not within the scope of the current project and are a matter for Transport for Wales (TfW). The issue of improvements to the station has been raised with both TfW and Welsh Government, and there are no current plans or funds available for such improvements. The interchange site is very constrained and there is insufficient space available to be set aside for any future lift installation. The location of the station platforms, on top of an embankment and on the bridge over Waungron Road also means that there is insufficient platform width for such installations.</p>
W43	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY</u></p> <p>Swansea Council worked with Adventure Travel to offer free bus journeys on selected days during August – does Cardiff Council have any plans to work with any local bus providers in a similar fashion?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is actively exploring the possibility of offering discounted bus travel by all bus operators in Cardiff for a limited trial period. This will be done in conjunction with future public campaigns to encourage a return to public transport. which will be led by Welsh Government and Transport for Wales.</p>
W44	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>How many metres of pavements or footways in Gabalfa ward are planned to be resurfaced or repaired during the current financial year and how many metres are currently identified as in need of repair/resurfacing?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>1400 metres of footway in Gabalfa have been selected for inclusion in the 2021/22 Footway Micro Asphalt programme and 250 metres of footway have been selected for reconstruction. The length of footways to be considered for inclusion in future programmes will be determined according to the condition and budget allocation for that particular year.</p>

	<p>This information is based on capital programmes of work. Footway repairs are undertaken throughout the year following routine highway safety inspections and requests for service from the public and elected members. These works are generally of a smaller scale, but are multiple in numbers.</p>
W45	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>The poor and deteriorating road surface of Talygarn Street has long been an issue, with patching and repairs carried out in recent years to address the worst defects. Can an update be provided on when residents can expect the necessary resurfacing/reconstruction of the whole street to take place?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A number of site visits have taken place with specialist surfacing contractors to determine the most appropriate treatment to deal with the structural issues on Talygarn Street. Ground investigations are required prior to a treatment option being agreed and the investigation survey has now been procured.</p> <p>It is estimated that the investigations will be completed and a potential solution formulated within the next two months. The scheme will then be put forward for consideration as part of the 2022/23 Reconstruction Programme. The decision on inclusion in the 2022/23 programme will depend on how the condition of the road will rate in comparison to other roads within the network and budget availability.</p>