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## **HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT**

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### **Summer of Fun & Summer Reading Challenge**

The Hubs & Libraries Team has an activity-filled summer planned for children during the summer holidays as part of Cardiff's Summer of Fun programme. Funding has been provided to deliver Project Gadgeteer through working with the Reading Agency. This project aims to provide all children aged 4-11 in Wales with the opportunity to access free activities aimed at supporting their development and wellbeing at their local library. The many free events held in Cardiff will include robot wrestling, motion animation workshops and dance sessions amongst many others.

In addition, the Summer Reading Challenge will be taking place over the summer period, doubling the amount of activities that children in Cardiff can experience at Hubs and libraries across the city. The Challenge is free to join and plays an important role in helping to address the literacy dip that can occur during the long summer holiday period. The children read six books and get rewarded with stickers and prizes throughout their reading journey. Children aged 4-11 can visit their local Hub to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge based on the theme of science and innovation.

### **New Family Supported Accommodation**

The new family supported accommodation at the Gasworks site in Grangetown is now fully operational. So far, 29 families have moved into this brand-new, high-quality accommodation and are receiving support, including access to Flying Start, Early Help services, Into Work services and Money Advice. Clients are supported holistically around promoting personal and community safety, promoting independence and control, including financial and promoting health and wellbeing through a range of signposting and one-to-one support from the Council and partners from other sectors.

### **Estate Regeneration Schemes – Lincoln Court and Pennsylvania**

Estate regeneration schemes, which enhance the environment around houses across the city, have commenced at both Pennsylvania and Lincoln Court in Llanedeyrn. The work aims to make the environment safer, easier to walk around and more pleasant for people who live there. Improvements include upgrading the rear courtyards of flats to make them private and secure for residents with new drying facilities, new bin stores and new pedestrian pathways throughout the area. It is anticipated that the works will be completed in late autumn 2022.

## **Tudor Lane Property Enhancement Scheme**

Regeneration funding from the Welsh Government has been used to deliver a number of environmental improvements to Tudor Lane in Riverside. A building improvement grant scheme for commercial premises in Tudor Lane has enabled internal and external improvements to be carried out to properties with the aim of improving the streetscape and bringing vacant or unsuitable commercial floorspace back into use. A total of 20 properties have benefitted from the scheme.

Alongside property improvements, murals, artwork and bespoke signage have been added to properties in Tudor Lane to help bring the street to life. These include a mural on the side and rear walls of the former Cardiff Bus Transport Club, artwork on the rear wall of Litchfield Court, lighting column banners advertising local businesses and new bespoke signage at the three entrances to the lane. The artwork and signage were produced by local artists and businesses within the lane and feedback has been really positive.

## **Community Safety Update**

### **Problem Solving Group**

Building on the success of the multi-agency Problem Solving Group pilot, which has seen over 30 partners come together to address issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and criminal behaviour, the Council has invested in a team of officers to build upon this model, strengthening the approach to tackling community issues and making a real difference. Over the coming months, the team will further develop the model, which will be evidence-led and consider proactive approaches to tackling emerging community issues.

Further to this, I am pleased to note that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have now become a protected resource. The role of the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is being strengthened with a focus on communication, problem solving, and empowering our communities. Every local Neighbourhood Policing Team and PCSO should also have made contact with their local Councillor.

As the Community Safety Team develops the refreshed Problem Solving Group model, the team will work with South Wales Police to ensure a joined-up approach that makes the best use of resources and works in the most efficient and effective way.

### **Safer Streets Fund – Round 4**

Cardiff has submitted a bid for approximately £750,000 in Round 4 of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The bid has a primary focus on women's safety, but also includes initiatives to reduce neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour and covers the following three areas:

- **Operational** – improved multi-agency working and unification of existing Cardiff women's safety initiatives, supported by new CCTV infrastructure and smart technology.

- **Community Guardianship** – community-focused safety initiatives, including safeguarding training for licensed premises staff, enhancing volunteer space in Cardiff Central Station, and promoting an existing South Wales initiative aimed at challenging sexual harassment.
- **Physical Environment** – reclamation of some areas of the city that are hotspots for graffiti or drug litter.

The bid area is limited to a maximum of 9,000 residents and the area chosen for the bid consists primarily of Cardiff City Centre and some residential areas within Cathays. Confirmation from the Home Office is still awaited as to whether or not the bid has been successful, which will potentially have a significant impact on community safety issues in this area of the city.

### Violence Prevention Group

In response to the forthcoming introduction of the Serious Violence Duty, the Violence Prevention Group is moving forward with plans to undertake a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment. This is being drafted with the assistance of Public Health Wales. The three subgroups – Night-Time Economy (NTE), Serious Violence and Organised Crime (SVSOC), and Violence Against Women and Girls – continue to work towards meeting their objectives. The NTE subgroup has renewed its focus on vulnerabilities that exist in this space, and the SVSOC subgroup is focused on specific wards (Llanishen and Llanedeyrn) over the summer period to tackle youth violence.

**Councillor Lynda Thorne**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities**  
**15 July 2022**