

## COUNCIL, 21 JULY 2022 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### CLIMATE CHANGE (COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W1	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></b></p> <p>Over the last 12 months what is the percentage of reported missed waste collections for flats compared with houses?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The average percentage of reported missed collections in the past 12 months stands at just 0.06%. For flats the rate is 0.2% and for households the rate is 0.05%. It should be noted that these figures are based on missed collections reported to the Council and may include duplications where people have telephoned about the same complaint more than once. They may also include false reports (i.e. where the waste collection was not missed, but was purposefully left due to contamination). In addition, in the case of flats, bins are sometimes not collected as scheduled as the bin store is inaccessible, yet these might still be reported as 'missed' collections.</p>
W2	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></b></p> <p>On two of the last three occasions the collection of green garden waste in Cyncoed and Lakeside has had to be postponed from the Friday – which is the designated collection day – to the weekend or the beginning of the following week. Can the administration clarify why this is the case and what the cost has been in terms of overtime payments?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Delays arise when either the volumes of waste and recycling presented exceed the planned level of resources or where there are staff shortages during the normal working week due to Covid infections, sickness and leave. This will mean that, unfortunately, garden waste is the waste stream and collection that has to be delayed as it is a non-statutory service with limited environmental concerns. Where we are unable to resource rounds on weekdays, the rounds are moved to the weekend and covered through the payment of overtime. For example, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022, five rounds were covered in this way, equating to a cost of £5,849, including on-costs.</p>

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN**

I have been contacted by residents who are concerned about the amount of rubbish on the streets after refuse collections. Where a bag contains the incorrect waste, a pink sticker is placed on it and it is often left for seagulls to rip open and the contents spill. This has been particularly noticed in areas of high HMOs such as Plasnewydd and Cathays (although not limited to rented properties of course). What are the recent statistics per ward in regard to pink stickers issued and follow up fines to homeowners and occupiers who incorrectly fill bags?

**Reply**

The pink sticker campaign is key to helping ensure that waste and recycling are presented correctly by households and that our recycling targets are achieved. The campaign focuses on education first, seeking to help residents to get it right and, therefore, avoid being issued with a fixed penalty notice and having to pay a fine.

Our Education and Enforcement Teams work proactively in Cathays and Plasnewydd during the week from Monday to Friday providing support and undertaking enforcement action for continued non-compliance. Meetings have also been held with the ward councillors in Cathays and Plasnewydd on this issue.

Whilst Collection Teams may leave contaminated green bags, residents are instructed to take them back in, clean them up and then present them correctly on the kerbside. Where waste remains on the highway, it will be searched and removed leading to enforcement action through the serving of a formal Section 46 notice, or a fixed penalty notice if a Section 46 notice has already been served.

The 2021/22 figures for Cathays show that 2,372 Section 46 notices and 287 fixed penalty notices were issued. A further 48 fixed penalty notices have been issued in the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

The 2021/22 figures for Plasnewydd show that 1,783 Section 46 notices and 80 fixed penalty notices were issued. A further 42 fixed penalty notices have been issued in the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

W4	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></b></p> <p>How does the council proactively work with homeowners and renters to help bring the waste bag pink sticker and associated fines statistics down?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council manages the concerns of incorrect waste presentation through both proactive and reactive work.</p> <p>On a proactive basis, the education and enforcement teams monitor areas of concern and deal with any issues as they are presented. The approach is always education first. Each time crews log incorrect presentation of waste, an educational or advisory letter is sent. Where the same property is logged several times, officers will visit the property before proceeding to enforcement action.</p> <p>In terms of reactive work, the teams respond to requests and complaints from councillors and members of the public, as well as reports logged by the waste collection teams.</p> <p>In 2021/22, there was a dedicated team to support the pink sticker campaign, which worked in areas of the city with high levels of reported incorrect waste presentation. Throughout the project, the team spoke to over 600 properties to provide advice. Areas were monitored over several weeks, with only a small number of properties needing to be spoken to again, demonstrating the effectiveness of the approach.</p>
W5	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></b></p> <p>What support, initiatives or penalties are there for landlords to ensure renters correctly fill waste and recycling bags, and put them out at the right time? Especially in regard to those whose first language is not Welsh or English.</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Correct waste presentation is the responsibility of the tenants and not the landlords.</p>

Waste Enforcement Officers are authorised to tackle waste presentation issues through the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A Section 46 notice can be served to the occupiers of the premises requiring them to present domestic waste in specified receptacles and/or bags/sacks. The notice provides all the information relating to presentation of waste for the tenant. A fixed penalty notice of £100 may be issued for any further waste presentation issues.

Where incorrect waste presentation continues, the Council's Education and Enforcement Teams may provide additional educational material or engage directly with the occupiers of the premises (e.g. working with students and landlords). In addition to English and Welsh, the service provides information in the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Czech, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Mandarin, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Somali, Turkish and Urdu.

Officers work closely with the Private Sector Housing Team within Shared Regulatory Services and with Rent Smart Wales to encourage landlords to help their tenants present their waste correctly. For example, in particular, the 'Fit and Proper' training for landlords and licence holders has been strengthened to make clear that landlords must provide their tenants with recycling and food waste containers, as well as providing them with information on how waste should be presented for collection.

W6

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL**

In response to a question put to the cabinet member last month at Full Council meeting, regarding the pop up recycling centre in Ty Glas Business Park, Llanishen, the cabinet member said that the pop up facility could be moved around different locations. Is there a chance that the pop up recycling facility, will be popping up at the former recycling facility at Waungron Road, which has been shut since 2014? If not, then why not?

**Reply**

There are no plans to move the pop-up recycling facility to the site of the former recycling centre at Waungron Road. The site is programmed to be redeveloped for other uses and, although the site is currently vacant, the vehicle capacity of the site is extremely limited and there are also trial holes across the site that would make it unsuitable. In any event, there is a fully functioning and highly regarded recycling centre less than three miles away at our Bessemer Close site.

W7

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL**

Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency and a commitment to protect nature and biodiversity in a Stronger Greener Fairer Cardiff, how many ecology officers are employed directly by the council to monitor the impacts on nature and biodiversity?

**Reply**

There are many council services that utilise the skills of expert ecology, biodiversity and green infrastructure professionals, including our team of Tree Officers and Park Rangers within the Parks Service, the Local Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator and specialist Planning Officers. Furthermore, as a Council, we regularly procure expert ecological advice through framework agreements with national consultancies for specific projects.

Recognising the importance of this area/function, the Council allocated additional revenue budget to the Parks Service in 2022/23, enabling the creation of two new Community Park Ranger posts. These posts will add capacity to the resource base, with a particular focus on supporting community engagement in biodiversity related activity. The Planning Service has also agreed to increase the Council's green infrastructure function through the funding of a Green Infrastructure/Senior Ecologist post which, as a new post, is currently subject to the Council's Job Evaluation process in advance of the post being advertised in the near future. This is in addition to the Planner (Ecology) and Planner (Trees) posts, which are within the current establishment. Notwithstanding this, I am also aware of the challenges that many councils are facing in recruiting suitably qualified professionals and ecology is certainly one area where there is a national shortage of professional expertise across Wales.

W8

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD**

Given the apparently increasing graffiti across the city, what can the council do to tackle this issue?

**Reply**

Tagging, etching and offensive graffiti are the most unacceptable forms of graffiti. The Council has a dedicated Graffiti Removal Team that is based within Housing & Communities. Any reports or concerns about graffiti can be logged via the Council's website and the CardiffGov mobile app.

The Council is currently piloting graffiti walls on the River Walk and at the Gabalfa Interchange to see if tagging, etching and offensive graffiti is reduced in the area. Graffiti walls are likely to be successful if the initiative is rooted in the community, particularly amongst young people. Engaging respected youth leaders is critical to the success of any project of this kind, which is why the Council is working with a respected graffiti artist who engages with key partner organisations such as the Cathays & Central Youth & Community Project (CCYCP).

W9

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD**

With climate change we can expect more incidents of heavy rain, does the council have any plans to improve drainage infrastructure to reduce issues with flash flooding and water pooling across the city?

**Reply**

There are approximately 90,000 highway drainage gullies and 400km of carrier pipe for which the Council has responsibility for maintenance. These drainage systems have a set storm period for which they are designed in accordance with industry accepted standards in the UK. Any storm over this level may result in flooding.

The Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Team is currently undertaking a tender exercise to appoint a consultant to complete the Full Business Case and detailed design for flood alleviation schemes in both the Rumney South and Whitchurch Brook South catchments. Should the full business case be accepted by the Welsh Government and the funding applications are successful, these schemes will lower the flood risk from ordinary watercourses and pluvial sources such as rainfall.

Flood alleviation schemes such as these are funded utilising internal and Welsh Government flood risk capital funding. The criteria for this funding is allocated on modelled flood risk and evidenced internal flooding events. As a result, it is vital that councillors and residents report all instances of flooding by email to: [FCRM@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:FCRM@cardiff.gov.uk) so the incident can be recorded on our flooding database and a flood investigation completed. These events will then feed into applications for external funding.

Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was enacted on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and any development over 100 square metres will require SuDS Approval Body (SAB) consent, as well as planning permission. The impact of climate change is a key factor throughout the legislation and the resultant six standards and twelve principles that every application is assessed against. As a result of sustainable drainage features being constructed throughout the city, as well as the retrofitting of sustainable drainage through projects such as Greener Grangetown, the amount of surface water entering the current drainage systems is greatly reduced.

W10

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SINGH**

What is the air quality in South Riverside?

How does that compare with other wards in Cardiff?

When was the last assessment taken?

**Reply**

There are currently 136 specifically allocated, non-automatic monitoring sites in Cardiff which monitor levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The non-automatic sites do not provide live data; instead, they consist of diffusion tubes which are placed at each of the sites, collected and replaced on a rolling monthly basis. The results derived from the tube sampling are then averaged over the year to enable a comparison of the results against the annual average (40µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and 1-hour (200µg/m<sup>3</sup> not to be exceeded >18 times per year) air quality objectives for NO<sub>2</sub>.

As you may appreciate, it is very difficult to have monitoring or have performed some sort of monitoring for each road link in the Local Authority's area; therefore, considering the requirements of Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 16, February 2018, one of the key considerations we do adopt to commission a new monitoring site is where road links are susceptible to traffic volumes greater than 10,000 annual average daily traffic flows/movements (AADT) or 5,000 AADT (narrow streets); it is good practice to consider these areas for potential air quality.

The air quality limits values apply at certain localities – for example, the annual average limit values apply at residential facades, whereas the hourly limit values apply at locations where someone would be expected to be at for a one-hour duration, such as a commercial property (shop).

NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tube monitoring is carried out at locations in the Riverside ward shown in the table below:

Site ID	Location	Annual NO <sub>2</sub> mean concentration mg/m <sup>3</sup>						
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
16	Ninian Park Road	27.9	28.9	28.9	27.8	27.3	23.6	23.2
201	23 Lower Cathedral Road	-	-	-	30.3	28.9	22.1	24
202	22 Clare Street	-	-	-	27.8	27.6	23.3	24.5
204	53 Neville Street	-	-	-	23.3	22.1	18.7	20.1

From the figures provided, it is evident that the levels in the given areas are within the set national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. The legal Air Quality Objective for this pollutant is set as an annual average of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### Automatic Monitoring Sites

The Council currently has seven near real-time indicative automatic analysers that are located predominantly in the City Centre (five), with one in Llandaff within the established Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and one in Canton, which is located on Lansdowne Road. These sites measure on a 24/7 basis, continuously monitoring for Nitric Oxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, PM10 & PM2.5, and do so every 15 minutes (data uploaded every hour).

Nitrogen dioxide and Particulate Matter readings from Air Quality mesh analysers located near the areas of concern are shown below:

Site Name	Valid Data Capture 2021 %	NO <sub>2</sub> Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 2021
Lower Cathedral Road	100	19.9
Tudor Street	100	20



Site Name	Valid Data Capture 2021 %	PM <sub>10</sub> Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 2021
Lower Cathedral Road	100	11.1
Tudor Street	100	13.9

Site Name	Valid Data Capture 2021 %	PM <sub>2.5</sub> Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 2021
Lower Cathedral Road	99	8.5
Tudor Street	100	10.7

From the figures provided above, it is evident that the automatic indicative levels in the given areas are within the set national air quality objectives, both for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (NO<sub>2</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>).

The legal Air Quality Objective for both these pollutants is set as an annual average of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is not currently within the Air Quality Objective regulations, although the background concentration shown is within the EU Target Limit of 25µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Short term objective exceedances in 2021 are within limits for both NO<sub>2</sub> (200 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year), and PM<sub>10</sub> (50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year).

The 2022 Annual Progress Report is currently being drafted for consideration by Cabinet later this year. Previous Annual Progress Reports for air quality in Cardiff can be found at: <https://www.srs.wales/en/Environmental-Health/Noise-and-Air-Pollution/Air-quality-and-pollution/Air-Quality-and-Pollution.aspx>

**CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS**  
**(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE-DAVIES)**

W11

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
**LITTLECHILD**

With my ward of Pontprennau and Old St Mellons being heavily built around to satisfy the LDP and green spaces vastly reduced, why is it there can be no funding found in the last 3 years to fix and replace the wooden walkways, bridges and fencing through Pontprennau woods and parkland?

**Reply**

There has been no reduction whatsoever of Council owned green spaces as a consequence of the current adopted Local Development Plan (LDP).

In accordance with LDP Policy C5 (Provision for open space, outdoor recreation, children's play and sport) and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Planning Obligations, the Council as the Local Planning Authority seeks to secure on-site open space within new developments in line with adopted standards. Where such provision is secured, financial contributions by developers towards existing off-site open spaces are not justified.

For the two major developments in Pontprennau and Old St Mellons, namely the St Edeyrn's Village housing development to the east of Cardiff Gate and the housing development for north-west Pontprennau that is currently being considered, new public open space is being provided so that no off-site contribution is being generated. Therefore, whilst there is significant development within the ward, it does not automatically result in funding for existing open spaces nearby. Moreover, when off-site contributions are generated for developments, they must be spent on open spaces within prescribed distance thresholds that are set out in the Council's SPG on Planning Obligations.

The Council's responsibilities for the repair and maintenance of the features that you describe are not insignificant; therefore, our city-wide programme of work and revenue budget allocation is prioritised on a risk basis, with those works that address health and safety of users taking such priority.

	<p>Your ward benefitted from investment totalling £110,000 in 2021/22 for refurbishment schemes to play areas at Peppermint Park and Lascelles Drive Open Space. Repair and maintenance works have also been undertaken within the ward over the past three years. Furthermore, I can advise you that the current work programme includes the renewal of the non-slip mesh on the boardwalk areas at Pontprennau Park and these works are expected to be completed by the end of September 2022.</p>
W12	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LANCASTER</u></b></p> <p>Following the RSPCA campaign #NoFunatTheFair, the Vale of Glamorgan has become the latest Local Authority to ban the giving away of goldfish as prizes at fairs and fetes. Does this practice continue at events held on land owned by Cardiff Council and, if so, are there any plans to follow the Vale of Glamorgan's lead?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council has, for many years, stipulated in the terms and conditions for the event hire and use of operational land owned by the Council, such as parks and public open spaces, that the event organiser is not permitted to sell animals or pets, including goldfish, or give them as prizes at any events, including funfairs. I note the Vale of Glamorgan Council's decision to introduce a similar 'ban' on this practice which, as is already the case in Cardiff, can only apply to the use of council owned land as the law in England and Wales does not currently prohibit the giving of animals as prizes at funfairs and similar venues.</p>
W13	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet member provide an update on the restoration of Parc Radur on Drover's Way?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Further to your Written Question at last month's Council meeting, I understand that officers from the Council's Drainage Team have since updated ward councillors on this matter. Unfortunately, officers have advised that the alternative procurement route was unsuccessful and, in view of this, there is a requirement to return to the market, with tenders anticipated to be returned to the Council in mid-August.</p>

	<p>If the second tender process is successful, then I remain hopeful that works to address the drainage problem can commence in September, followed shortly by the implementation of the play area scheme. Officers will continue to keep ward councillors updated on any developments.</p>
W14	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></b></p> <p>Children using play equipment in our parks enjoy eating ice cream, nuts and a range of other food and drinks. These can often spill onto the play equipment. Where children with allergies come into contact with allergens this can have serious consequences. Can the council consider installing appropriate signs in our parks alerting users to this, as has been done in parks around the UK, so that play equipment can be kept safe for everyone?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I recognise the concerns raised and would be happy to consider the request that you have made. Introducing signage within playgrounds will not necessarily result in compliance; however, I have asked officers to consider the most appropriate means of drawing public attention to the issue and risks, in conjunction with colleagues in Public Health and our own Health and Safety Team.</p>
W15	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></b></p> <p>Recently, a number of residents have noticed a drilling rig in the top field of Radyr Vale Park behind Herbert March Close, off Buckley Close, which borders Radyr Comprehensive School. Access appears to have been gained from Llantrisant Road. Can the cabinet member explain what investigations are taking place, if permission was sought by the contractors for access, were the parks department informed and when were the local members notified?</p>

	<p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I understand that the ground investigations related to a pylon that has been identified for removal or relocation by Western Power Distribution (WPD). Permission was not sought to access the land in question and the Parks Service was also not informed and, therefore, neither were the ward councillors on this occasion. What I can advise is that, as soon as the matter was reported to the Council, officers from the Parks Service made contact with WPD, expressing concerns about the unauthorised access to the land. WPD has provided a commitment to notify the Council if any further land entry is required. Officers will in turn notify the ward councillors. I understand that officers from the Parks Service updated you on this matter last week.</p>
W16	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR NAUGHTON</u></b></p> <p>Would the council consider supporting RSPCA Cymru calls to ban the ban outright giving of animals as prizes, in any form, on council owned land?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I would refer you to the answer provided in reply to the previous Written Question on this issue from Councillor Lancaster (W12).</p>

**DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION**  
**(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)**

W17	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>Is the Council encouraging schools to procure the book “Queen Elizabeth: A Platinum Jubilee Celebration”?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Children in state-funded primary schools across the UK have, from mid-May 2022, been able to receive a free commemorative book to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee. On the request of the Scottish and Welsh Governments, schools in Scotland and Wales were asked to opt-in to receive copies of the book, which are due to be delivered to schools in late September.</p>
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W18

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN**

Please could the council give an update on their commitment to build the expansion to Cardiff High School that they have promised?

**Reply**

The proposed expansion of Cardiff High School is contained within Cardiff's £284m 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme, which started in April 2019. Members have been consistently advised that owing to the scale and number of proposed projects in the programme, the delivery of the schemes was to be undertaken in batches over the timespan of the programme.

Proposals for replacing Fitzalan, Cantonian and Willows High Schools were brought forward as a priority, as mandated by the Welsh Government, on the basis of their Category D condition. More recently, proposals for Cathays High School have been brought forward, which will support the expansion of the mainstream places in the school by 2.5 forms of entry, as well as an increased number of specialist places for pupils with Additional Learning Needs through the expansion of the Specialist Resource Base from 16 places to 50 places.

Our Band B Programme includes the proposal to increase the number of places at entry to Cardiff High School from 240 places (eight forms of entry) to 300 places (ten forms of entry). This would require the Council to undertake a full statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and consultation would be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders who may be affected by proposals, including parents and local residents.

**HOUSING & COMMUNITIES**  
**(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)**

W19

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

The council allocated additional funding for neighbourhood regeneration schemes in this year's budget. What plans does the council have for a neighbourhood regeneration scheme for Whitchurch Road?

**Reply**

The Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes (NRS) programme is a member-led, city-wide regeneration programme, which delivers a wide range of improvements in local communities. The programme is currently in the final year of a 3-year programme, which has seen ten schemes prioritised using the funding available. As you will be aware, these included one scheme within your own ward that was completed in 2021, the extent of which related only to environmental improvements to the pedestrian area between the closed end of Llanishen Street and Whitchurch Road. There is a small amount of funding in 2023/24 in the capital programme to launch a new programme to gather project ideas and design a small number of schemes, and it is our intention to launch a new competitive round in autumn 2022. Ideas put forward by ward councillors for consideration will be assessed against programme criteria and the highest scored schemes will be prioritised in line with available funding. Assessment criteria will focus on regeneration benefits, environmental impact, community involvement and match funding.

W20

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

Significant new measures on second homes and holiday lets have recently been announced by the Welsh Government. They include changes to land transaction tax and planning, along with a licensing scheme for holiday lets. These come on top of the changes to council tax announced some time ago. Local councils will have powers in relation to delivery of a number of these measures. Given the ongoing housing crisis in Cardiff, what plans does Cardiff Council have to use these new powers?

**Reply**

The changes announced by the Welsh Government earlier this month will introduce three new planning use classes – a primary home, a second home and short-term holiday accommodation. These changes to existing planning regulations will come into force by the end of the summer and the Council, where it has sufficient evidence, will be able to make amendments to the planning system to require planning permission for a change of use from one class to another. These changes will be accompanied by changes to national planning policy to give local authorities the ability to control the number of second homes and holiday lets in any community. I also welcome the Welsh Government's plans for a statutory licensing scheme for all visitor accommodation in Wales, including short-term holiday lets, and we await further details of this scheme.

Research undertaken by the Welsh Government last year showed that there were 3,477 second homes in Cardiff representing 2.3% of the total housing stock in the city. Given this low percentage, the impact of second homes in the city is not considered to be significant; however, we do need to rely on short-term lets to address housing needs for refugees and to allow people to live independently who could not otherwise afford market rents.

The Council introduced a Council Tax premium of 50% on long-term unoccupied and unfurnished properties back in April 2019. The Welsh Government has recently amended the regulations in this area to provide greater flexibility for Local Authorities to have discretionary powers to charge a council tax premium on second homes and long-term empty properties of up to 300% from April 2023. The criteria for self-catering accommodation being liable for business rates instead of council tax will also change from April next year.

The Council will need to consider its response to these changes over the coming months, taking into account existing and new evidence of the impact of these uses within the city, and determine an appropriate way forward.

## **INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT** **(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)**

W21

### **WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

Did Cardiff Council enter into the Great British Railways (GBR) National HQ competition to find a new location for the GBR headquarters?

#### **Reply**

I can confirm that Cardiff Council did not submit an entry into the Great British Railways National HQ competition.



**LEADER**  
**(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)**

W22

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
**LITTLECHILD**

With every Councillor having to carry out casework for their ward and dealing with vulnerable people, often in challenging situations, as well as being a corporate parent to children that are looked after, should all councillors have a DBS check carried out or an advanced criminal record check?

**Reply**

A councillor's role within the community does not generally meet the requirement for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

DBS checks for the adult workforce are determined by the nature of the contact, such as attending to personal care or providing health care. DBS checks for those working with children are required for those who have frequent unsupervised contact with children in a formal setting such as a school or club.

The Council has in place a DBS policy and procedures to ensure that checks take place where the relevant criteria have been met. The Council has a duty to ensure it is not unnecessarily undertaking checks which could result in a breach of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

The Council's current policy is not to carry out DBS checks on councillors; however, the Disclosure and Barring Service guidance states that:

- Elected councillors are only eligible for an enhanced DBS check in the child or adult workforce without a barred list check if they are appointed as a member of a committee or sub-committee involved in:
  - the delivery of services for children relating to education or social services or
  - the delivery of services for adults relating to social services

Therefore, we can (but do not have to) carry out DBS checks on councillors who sit on committees that carry out specific education and/or social services functions.

In addition, councillors who are not members of these committees can apply for a Basic DBS check for themselves, should they wish to do so. Some councillors may also need to have DBS checks because of other separate roles which they undertake, such as coaching a young person's sports team, or being a scout or brownie leader.

I have asked the Director of Governance & Legal Services to consult with political groups on a potential review of our current policy of not carrying out DBS checks.

**TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)**

W23

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES**

What support is the Council giving to residents to establish youth groups and clubs?

**Reply**

The Council usually engages with residents on such matters via their local councillors.

Those areas of the city with youth centres have Youth Action Groups at which such matters can be raised, but there are also community forums that have contacted the Council to enquire about setting up youth provision in their area. Where this is a priority and budget is available, the Youth Service has then worked with existing organisations to support new provision.

Young people are consulted using various methods in order to identify needs within communities. Support is also provided to these young people to explore ways to establish new provision.

A full independent review of the Youth Service is currently being undertaken.

**TRANSPORT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
**(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)**

W24

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES**

How much Section 106 money is available to Radyr & Morganstown and from which developments do they originate?

**Reply**

With regard to Section 106 obligations for developments in Radyr & Morganstown, the table below sets out the financial contributions that have been received and were unspent as of 31 March 2022. The table also identifies the developments from which the Section 106 monies were secured, the details of what the contribution can be spent on, and any outstanding balance.

Planning Application No.	Development	S106 Category	S106 Wording	Balance at 31st March 2022	Notes
14/02157/MJR	Plasdwr - Land North and South of Llantrisant Road	Highways and Transportation	For the purpose of designing and constructing cycle parking facilities at Radyr Train Station	£4,775.64	This contribution has been drawn down for use by Highways towards the provision of cycle parking at Radyr Station
14/02157/MJR	Plasdwr - Land North and South of Llantrisant Road	Highways and Transportation	Only for the purposes of designing and constructing highways improvements to Heol Isaf.	£57,120.96	This contribution totalled £300,000 and has been drawn down in full by Highways. £57k is the current remaining balance from the works that have been completed to date along Heol Isaf.

14/02157/ MJR	Plasdwr - Land North and South of Llantrisant Road	Community Facilities	Only for the purpose of providing Community Facilities in the local area of the development	£31,467.00	
17/03034/ MJR	Land at De Clare Drive, Radyr	Community Facilities	Towards the Old Church Rooms and/or Morganstown Community Hall	£34,738.39	

These figures do not include those Section 106 obligations where the developer is to provide the necessary infrastructure in kind (e.g. schools, parks, play areas and community buildings). More information regarding the totality of planning obligations secured from new developments within the Local Development Plan (LDP) Strategic Sites can be found on the Council website at: [Major Development Activity Monitoring \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](http://cardiff.gov.uk/major-development-activity-monitoring)

W25

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES**

Since its installation how many fines have been issued to HGV operators as a result of the camera on Ty Nant Road and how much money has been raised?

**Reply**

In the period from October 2021 to June 2022, 1,483 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued and £35,168 has been paid to date.

W26

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS**

Boards advertising block paving and other services appear frequently attached to trees and lamp posts in Cyncoed and Lakeside. Can the council confirm that this is prohibited and clarify the action that can be taken in response?

**Reply**

All fly-posting, including advertising boards, is prohibited. Our dedicated Highways Enforcement Team not only removes these signs, but will also issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 to the company advertising its services. Failure to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice may mean that the offence proceeds to the Magistrates Court.

	<p>The Highway Enforcement Team deals proactively with any concerns that they come across. The details of any such fly-posting or advertising boards on public land can also be reported to Connect to Cardiff (C2C) who will pass the information on to the Highways Enforcement Team so that appropriate action is taken.</p>
W27	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></b></p> <p>Has an impact assessment been carried out on the effect of the new 20mph speeds on bus journey times?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council meets regularly with all bus operators in the city to discuss operational matters. Average urban bus speeds are well below 20mph; however, some concerns have been raised over the effects of the 20mph limit on journey times on parts of some routes and Cardiff Bus has supplied the Council with a list of roads that the company would like exempted from the new speed limit in order to address these concerns. This is currently being investigated.</p>
W28	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></b></p> <p>Residents have reported difficulties with navigating pavements and walkways in the Cathays Terrace and Whitchurch Road area. What steps are being taken to ensure that the area is accessible to all users during the construction of Cycleway 1.2?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The construction method used around the Whitchurch Road area is an approved traffic management arrangement. We have chosen to keep the crossings open to allow safe movement of people through the area and aim to complete this section of work as soon as possible.</p> <p>I can confirm that we have left at least 1.2 metres (the standard width) at all locations, and staff on the ground are available to assist the public if needed. We take our health and safety commitments very seriously and will continue to monitor the area via our site supervision schedule.</p>

W29	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></b></p> <p>Some cities are undertaking trials of motorised ‘stand-on’ scooters (which are banned from use apart from on privately owned land or roads); has the council discussed trialling scooters for hire in the city, or do they have any future plans to do so?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The UK Government Department for Transport has made regulations allowing trials of rental e-scooters and 31 regions across England have participated in trials where e-scooters are available for hire. Trials have been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.</p> <p>As e-scooters continue to fall within the statutory definition of a motor vehicle, users are currently required to have a driver's licence and be covered by a motor vehicle insurance policy. The trials will inform future changes to legislation and/or regulations, assess safety and the wider impacts of e-scooters, and establish best practice for shared micro-mobility services.</p> <p>The Council will consider the outcomes of the trials and any associated changes in legislation and/or regulations at the appropriate time.</p>
W30	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></b></p> <p>I informed residents of the Insole that in November 2021 a report into speed on Western Avenue was undertaken by Highways. I requested in an email, a copy of the report; when can I expect to receive a copy?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The response to your request, including two reports of speeds on Western Avenue, was sent to you on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</p>
W31	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></b></p> <p>Would the council consider the introduction of continuous pavements along Whitchurch Road to improve resident safety at junctions?</p>

**Reply**

Continuous pavements are referred to as ‘blended side road entry treatments’ within the Welsh Government [guidance](#) on the Active Travel Act, which was published in July 2021. They involve continuing the footway across the mouth of the junction without any change to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross by reducing the speeds of turning vehicles, shortening the length of the crossing and providing a level route. The continuous footway strongly indicates to drivers that they should give way to pedestrians using the footway.

Any such local improvement requests are logged and assessed on an area basis in order to prioritise their delivery according to the availability of funding or opportunities to bid for grant funding. It is often more cost effective to include these treatments in wider improvement schemes as there are then economies of scale in delivering them cost effectively. Your request for this kind of ‘blended side road entry treatment’ to be considered along Whitchurch Road will be logged as part of this process.

W32

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD**

How many traffic enforcement patrols have been undertaken in Gabalfa in each of the last 6 months?

**Reply**

Over the last six months, Civil Parking Enforcement Officers have attended the Gabalfa ward to patrol a total of 2,033 times, as outlined below:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Patrols</b>	<b>Total Number of Vehicles Reported as Parking in Contravention</b>
January 2022	377	144
February 2022	397	177
March 2022	433	175
April 2022	266	87
May 2022	218	90
June 2022	342	161

We have also monitored the Gabalfa ward using our mobile enforcement vehicle, which reported 88 vehicles parking in contravention over this period.