

**COUNCIL: 27 OCTOBER 2022**

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## **LEADER STATEMENT**

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### **Headteachers Conference**

On 30 September 2022, I was pleased to attend a city-wide headteachers meeting with the Deputy Leader. The work of the city's teachers was rightly celebrated for leading sustained improvement in the quality of education in Cardiff over the past decade and for their brilliant contribution during the pandemic. Over the past two years, our school leaders supported pupils and teachers to shift overnight to online learning, reopened our schools safely and most importantly provided a trusted voice to pupils, staff and local communities during a period of fear and uncertainty. The city is privileged to have such dedicated, professional and compassionate public servants. Council officers from the Children's Services and Housing & Communities directorates also attended to present information about the range of services available to help vulnerable children and families, emphasising the importance of providing a team around the school. Taking a team approach across service, departmental and organisational boundaries needs to be a defining feature of how we work, and the more we take forward such cross-council conversations the better in the months ahead.

### **Cardiff Public Services Board**

The Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) met on 5 October 2022, with a number of agenda items discussed, including the Draft Cardiff Local Well-being Plan 2023-28.

Over the last five years, the PSB in Cardiff has led highly-effective partnership working between our respective public services in response to a wide range of issues. In particular, the collective response to the challenges faced during the pandemic enhanced the pace and scale of joint working. The draft local Well-being Plan maintains this momentum and focuses on public service delivery challenges which require fundamental collaboration between two or more public service organisations.

The draft Local Well-being Plan responds to wide-ranging evidence based on the quality of life and public services in Cardiff, and how these might change over the years to come. It does this by setting out the Cardiff PSB's priorities for partnership actions over the next five years. This includes a list of things that the PSB will measure ('outcome indicators') to make sure that they are achieving this. Complementary to the Draft Plan is Cardiff's new city dashboard, which provides the latest performance data for each of the outcome indicators in the Draft Plan. The Plan was subject to a comprehensive development process which included engagement with stakeholders

across the public services. The Plan was also considered by the Performance and Policy Review Scrutiny Committee on 18 October.

As the Draft Plan has been approved by the PSB, a 12-week period of consultation will commence imminently. This will take the form of an online survey which will be available to access on the PSB's website – [www.cardiffpartnership.co.uk](http://www.cardiffpartnership.co.uk) – along with a copy of the Draft Plan and a link to the new dashboard. I would encourage all Members to respond to the consultation.

After the meeting of the PSB, members were invited to attend a celebration event to mark organisations completing the Cardiff Healthy Travel Charter – Cardiff Council being one of them. The Charter was first launched in 2019 and featured 14 commitments designed to promote walking, cycling, public transport, and ultra-low emission vehicle use across the city. This is incredibly important work, as changing how people move about the city is central to hitting our climate targets, as well as keeping our city's air clean and improving the health and wellbeing of citizens.

### **Cardiff Music Board**

I chaired a meeting of the Cardiff Music Board on 10 October 2022. Council officers and members of the Cardiff Music Board are continuing to work to support the sustainability and development of our grassroots music sector in Cardiff to ensure that we support grassroots music venues, as well as bigger music infrastructure projects; and music education and events to help grow and sustain the wider music ecology in Cardiff.

### **Shared Prosperity Fund**

As Members will be aware, the Shared Prosperity Fund replaces European structural funds and is an important opportunity to direct investment to the city's priorities. Around 50 to 75 representatives from partner organisations in the city are due to attend an engagement event on the Shared Prosperity Fund, which is being held at City Hall on 21 October 2022. The event will introduce the priorities for projects to be undertaken within Cardiff as part of the three-year funding programme and will include a workshop to establish support for the city's priorities and way forward. Cardiff has potentially around £42million to spend over three years on three investment priorities set out by the UK Government: community and place; supporting local business, and people and skills.

### **Economic & Social Research Council Festival of Social Science**

I will be speaking at the launch of the annual Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Science at Cardiff University on 24 October 2022. The festival is a free event to celebrate social sciences and runs from 22 October to 13 November. This year, Cardiff and Bangor Universities are also jointly delivering their festivals thereby creating a pan-Wales event.

Cardiff University is a great asset to the city. It is an important anchor institution that makes a major contribution to the local economy, and plays a hugely important role in shaping life in the city and in promoting Cardiff, both at home and abroad. The festival

celebrates the contribution social sciences make to shaping public policy by providing insight into the issues and challenges we all face, whether it's health and wellbeing, community safety, equality, education or cultural identity.

Further information about the ESRC Festival of Social Science is available at <https://festivalofsocialscience.com/>

**Councillor Huw Thomas**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**21 October 2022**