

## COUNCIL, 27 OCTOBER 2022 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE (COUNCILLOR ED STUBBS)

W1	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>How is the Council ensuring that developers are communicating appropriately with residents in neighbourhoods adjacent to their sites?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>For any proposed 'major development', a developer is statutorily required to undertake 'Pre-Application Consultation' (PAC) with the community and statutory consultees (including local ward members), and to submit a report on the findings of such PAC process as part of their planning application. A 'major development' means development involving any one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;</li><li>b. waste development;</li><li>c. the provision of 10 or more dwellinghouses (or a site of 0.5 hectares if numbers unknown);</li><li>d. new development &gt;1,000 square metres; or</li><li>e. development with a site area &gt;1 hectare.</li></ul> <p>The Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) enforces the need for PAC, as if a developer fails to accord with such requirement a planning application will not be validated. Apart from this, there is no formal requirement for developers to engage with residents and the LPA cannot insist on any such communication ahead of the formal submission of a planning application. For all planning applications, the LPA follows all statutory requirements for publicity, which can include one or all of the following: letters sent directly to adjoining neighbours; site notice(s) in the locality; and advertisements in the press. In addition, all planning applications are publicised and are available to view online via the Council's online planning register.</p> <p>Whilst not a statutory requirement, it is not uncommon for developers and/or their contractors to have a dedicated website, phone number or email address where residents can obtain information or contact them about any issues whilst major developments are being constructed. This isn't a formal requirement, but can help support a 'good neighbour' role and is general good practice.</p>
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**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)**

W2	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>What is the Council’s assessment of the Welsh Government’s Arbed and Nest schemes’ effectiveness in meeting its objectives in Cardiff?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council has been actively involved in both the promotion and delivery of the Welsh Government’s Warm Homes Programme in all its iterations. The current iteration of the Welsh Government’s Warm Homes Programme is under review, with the area-based Arbed scheme closed to new bids and the demand-led Nest scheme currently live.</p> <p>The demand-led Nest scheme is promoted via the Council’s Money Advice Service and in our Hubs. We also facilitate an annual Nest direct mailshot to residents in receipt of support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. In 2021/22, approximately 360 private tenure properties received an energy efficiency measure through Nest funding, and all households that contacted the Nest helpline were offered energy efficiency advice.</p> <p>To date, 9 Arbed area-based energy efficiency retrofit schemes have been delivered in Cardiff, utilising over £11 million of Welsh Government Arbed funding. This has supported improvements to over 1,100 mixed tenure properties across the city. The Council has also submitted a funding bid that is currently awaiting a decision, which, if successful, will upgrade approximately 250 mixed tenure properties.</p> <p>Given the need to tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions, we eagerly await the next iteration of the Welsh Government’s Warm Homes Programme.</p>
W3	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></b></p> <p>How is Cardiff Council proposing to address the issue of demolishing buildings in the city, particularly as it is clear that if the current rate of demolition continues, the local authority will be unable to achieve its ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p>

Current planning legislation only enables the Council to control the method of demolition, rather than the principle of demolition. Landowners are required to submit applications for prior approval of the method of demolition for large non-domestic buildings and all non-domestic buildings adjoining a dwelling house.

Given their historical significance, the Council has greater control to protect listed buildings and buildings within designated conservation areas where separate applications for listed building and conservation area consent are required, in addition to applications for prior approval of the method of demolition.

In the master-planning of regeneration projects within the city, the Council works with developers to re-purpose any existing buildings that contribute to the culture and character of the area. It is also important to re-use demolition materials to both facilitate the redevelopment of the site and to avoid the use of primary materials with their associated carbon emissions. These principles will be taken forward in future regeneration projects proposed within the city and will help the Council meet its carbon reduction targets.

The Council is developing a long-term approach to carbon management within its own estate, which considers retrofit and modernisation of existing buildings to contribute to the carbon reduction targets identified within One Planet Cardiff strategy. A strategic approach to meeting our One Planet Cardiff Built Environment targets was outlined in the Corporate Property Strategy 2021/26.

Where demolition is a requirement of a project relevant to the built environment, the Council will work closely with the market to develop a whole life approach recognising the challenge associated with identifying and calculating embedded carbon emissions. Where necessary, emissions associated with demolition will be considered when calculating the carbon footprint across the city together with relevant offsetting initiatives.

Further detail on the Council's approach to the management of carbon associated with demolition of council property within the built environment will be communicated in future Annual Property Plans.

W4

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

	<p>What approach is Cardiff Council taking to the reuse of existing buildings and taking a whole lifetime approach to calculating emissions?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council outlined a strategic approach to meeting our One Planet Cardiff Built Environment targets in the Corporate Property Strategy 2021/26, which was approved by Cabinet in December 2021.</p> <p>The Council is continually pushing the boundaries of whole life carbon calculations relevant to property projects. Work to date has shown carbon assessment over the life of a building can be hard to consistently quantify and assess; however, techniques and guidance are constantly developing in this area that will inform future programmes. We will continue to work closely with partners such as the Welsh Government to ensure a consistent approach to the calculating and reporting of whole life carbon. Further detail on the Council's approach will be communicated in future Annual Property Plans.</p> <p>Best use and reuse of existing property is an essential consideration of the Council's strategic asset management process; however, it is important to note that the reuse of buildings is challenging and subject to service requirements, adaptability and affordability.</p>
W5	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></b></p> <p>Can the council confirm that leaf clearance will continue this year through autumn up to and including December and that priority will be given to flooding hotspots such as Dan Yr Heol and Rhydypenau Road in Cyncoed?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Leaf fall clearance will continue from this month until the end of December, if required. Cleansing Services complete leaf clearance in the Cyncoed ward on a fortnightly cycle; however, Dan Yr Heol and Rhydypenau Road are known flood risk areas and, therefore, leaf clearance work is completed weekly at these locations in order to reduce the risk of localised flooding. When heavy rainfall is forecast, the service also deploys mechanical sweepers to the flood risk hotspots in addition to the planned work.</p>
W6	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></b></p>

	<p>Can the administration confirm that when garden waste collections resume in March they will be on a fortnightly basis?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Garden waste collections are planned to resume on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and will continue to be collected on a fortnightly basis.</p>
W7	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></b></p> <p>How often can residents expect leaf fall to be removed from Africa Gardens and adjoining roads during the autumn?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Leaf clearance work takes place in all wards on a fortnightly cycle and last took place at Africa Gardens on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Leaf clearance work in the Gabalfa ward is due to be undertaken again this week (week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022) and then every two weeks thereafter. The areas are assessed for leaf fall by a Cleansing Supervisor on the day before the teams are deployed, with the teams then being deployed in streets that are identified on a priority basis.</p>
W8	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></b></p> <p>How many successful prosecutions has the Council achieved over the past 3 years for flytipping offences? (Please provide an annual breakdown)</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>April 2019 – March 2020</b> 7 prosecuted (1 successful; 6 ongoing)</li> <li>• <b>April 2020 – March 2021</b> 10 prosecuted (5 successful; 5 ongoing)</li> <li>• <b>April 2021 – March 2022</b> 42 prosecuted (8 successful; 34 ongoing)</li> <li>• <b>April 2022 to date</b> 39 prosecuted (1 successful; 38 ongoing)</li> </ul>

	<p>It should be noted that there are a number of ongoing cases that are waiting to be heard due to a lack of court time resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last two and a half years.</p>
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**CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS**  
**(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE-DAVIES)**

<p>W9</p>	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>Will the Council reaffirm its commitment to undertake the necessary works on Parc Radur following a second failed tendering process?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The second tendering exercise determined that the costs of the scheme that the Council needs to implement to resolve the drainage problems on site exceed the budget that is currently available. Notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to implementing the scheme and is actively exploring options for funding the balance from within its own budgets.</p>
<p>W10</p>	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></b></p> <p>Will the Council seek more funds from the Welsh Government to complete the promised works on Parc Radur?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council has approached the Welsh Government about potential funding and has received confirmation that there are no further funds available to be granted to the Council to help meet the shortfall in the budget required to implement the scheme. The Council is actively exploring options for funding the balance of the scheme from within its own budgets.</p>
<p>W11</p>	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></b></p> <p>When a tree is removed or cut back (due to disease or otherwise), what is a realistic time period we need to wait for it to be replaced?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p>

The Council strives to undertake replacement planting of trees felled, for the reasons that you describe, within a 12-month period. The budget available for replacement trees, the grinding/removal of stumps and reinstatement of the footways will impact on the Council's ability to maintain this target, particularly in relation to street trees. It is important to note that trees felled are not always replanted in the same location for a number of reasons and, therefore, 'locality' planting is undertaken to mitigate this.

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

W12

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES**

What actions is the Council undertaking to ensure that all children can attend a school close to where they live in the county's boundaries?

**Reply**

Cardiff employs a robust projection methodology for planning school places, which takes account of NHS GP registration data and school census data submitted by and verified by all Cardiff schools. The Council also identifies trends within projections and analyses school preference data and other contextual information to produce forecasts on a city-wide basis, and in each locality, to ensure that there are sufficient places of each type serving each area.

In Cardiff, unlike many Welsh Local Authorities, an added level of complexity arises from a significant fluctuation in birth rates of up to 25%, as well as migration patterns into and within the city. Cardiff is experiencing its highest intakes in the secondary age phase, whilst intakes to primary education are falling rapidly.

Proposals for new school provision, and for changes to existing provision, are carefully planned to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck in the timing and number of places which supports families and existing schools in each community.

The Council has invested £460million in new and upgraded permanent primary, secondary and specialist places, and the Council has planned

and implemented temporary secondary school and specialist expansions across the city to manage the peak intakes in coming years, after which intakes will fall.

For those parents applying outside of the annual Primary and Secondary school admissions cycle, legislation prevents the Council from holding back places for new arrivals to the area. However, the Council plans a sustainable level of surplus places in mainstream schools to ensure that children who apply to transfer into a Cardiff school are supported by the School Admissions Team to be promptly offered a school place and, where local places have been filled, offered free home to school transport to the nearest alternative school.

Cardiff is experiencing a significant growth in the number of children and young people requiring the support of a specialist placement, exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on learners, and the Council is expediting the development of additional specialist provision to ensure that every learner is supported appropriately.

W13

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER**

Does the council have any plans to support parents struggling to afford school transport?

**Reply**

The current cost-of-living crisis is impacting on every household in the city in a number of different ways and I am aware of reports in recent months that it has led to some families prioritising other household costs over the costs of transporting their children to school.

I answered a similar question from your ward colleague, Councillor Naughton, at Council in June 2022, so I would refer you to my previous answer on this issue. I would also urge those families in Cardiff in receipt of Free School Meals to access the £150 one-off cost-of-living support payment that is available to them if they have not already done so. Further details on whether families qualify for the £150 payment can be found on the Council's website at: [Cost of living support payment \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-payment)

Any families in Cardiff that are struggling to pay to send their children to school should contact the Council's Money Advice Team either by visiting one of our Hubs, by emailing [Advicehub@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Advicehub@cardiff.gov.uk), by calling the Adviceline on 029 2087 1071, or by visiting



	<p><a href="http://www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk">www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk</a> Advisors will provide expert guidance on maximising income, help with accessing benefits and advice on dealing with debt. The team will also be able to access grants, including the Cost-of-Living Discretionary Scheme, to help support families that are struggling this winter.</p>
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**FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE**  
**(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)**

W14	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How many Cardiff officers excluding teaching staff earned over £100,000 on 01.05.2012 and on 31.12.2012?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>As at 01/05/12, there were 3 officers earning over £100,000.</p> <p>As at 31/12/12, there were 3 officers earning over £100,000.</p>
W15	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></b></p> <p>What steps is the council taking to ensure that information is updated across all platforms at once? For example, ensuring that information about bin changes on social media is reflected on the Cardiff.Gov app at the same time.</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Recycling and Neighbourhood Services works closely with our Digital Team in managing the CardiffGov mobile app, and have built an Application Programming Interface (API) between the app and the waste operations software used (Collective). This live integration updates between 10pm and midnight every night, meaning that any updates to services changes can be made on a daily basis.</p> <p>With any large-scale changes due to the impact and disruption of certain events (e.g. snow events), there can be a delay of a day or two whilst the waste collection data in Collective is updated and amended, and then for the correct information to show on the app.</p>

Recycling and Neighbourhood Services and the Digital Team have now developed 'emergency scenario' processes to streamline any last-minute changes that are made to waste collections in order to improve the information that residents receive on the app. This also includes working closely with C2C and the team managing our social media publications on the timing of these messages.

It should be noted that the CardiffGov app holds the exact same information as that published on the Council's website.

W16

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD**

In light of the increase in interest rates and inflation with the impact this may have on current and planned expenditure, does the council expect the cost of servicing its debts to increase, and if so by how much for each of the next 10 years?

**Reply**

The cost of servicing capital expenditure to be paid for by borrowing not only includes interest costs, but also includes provision for repayment of that expenditure over a prudent period, as well as any costs of operating that expenditure. In some cases, that expenditure may in part be offset by new or existing income streams – for example, from the development itself in terms of capital receipts, operating savings or from future rent income.

The Treasury Management Annual Report for 2021/22 provides members with details of the level of actual external borrowing at 31 March 2022, which stands at £855.6 million. During the year, the Council did secure some of its borrowing requirement at relatively low rates and that borrowing is to meet the Council's overall borrowing requirement, rather than for specific projects. External borrowing includes that for the Housing Revenue Account investment programme. This external borrowing is at fixed interest rates, so the Council's interest cost of servicing existing debt will not rise as a result of recent increases in interest rates.

The Council does have a future borrowing requirement, as set out in the budget report and medium term financial plan, prudential indicators and capital financing forecasts included within that plan. Along with all other pressures, these are to be reviewed, as is the case each year,

as part of the development of the 2023/24 budget and relevant business cases, taking into account wider economic and local financial pressures, along with relevant financial models for specific projects, including those where income is receivable on an ongoing basis to meet costs.

Indicator							
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Budget Stream							
	2020/21 Actual %	2021/22 Estimate %	2022/23 Estimate %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %	2026/27 Estimate %
<b>General Fund – Net Capital Financing Budget</b>	4.73	4.77	4.58	4.69	4.71	4.70	4.90
<b>General Fund – Gross Capital Financing Budget</b>	6.99	7.18	6.90	7.50	8.22	8.39	8.44
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Gross Capital Financing Budget</b>	32.72	32.24	32.16	33.36	36.23	38.49	37.72

Interest rates from sources such as the Public Works Loan Board have increased since the budget was set initially and are currently subject to wide fluctuations as a result of economic and political uncertainty. Interest rates are also dependent on economic cycles. If interest rates remain at their current levels of 4.75% and all other things being equal, then, yes, the borrowing requirement will cost more to service; however, rates are extremely variable. The Council does have a significant borrowing requirement as set out in its Capital Strategy for investment in key assets such as major city transformation, education and housing. These are assets for the long term.

The Council continues to seek external grant funding to minimise its borrowing requirement and will also continue to look at alternative funding options such as asset disposals. The budget report for 2023/24 will update indicators of affordability, prudence and sustainability following a review of key outcomes and revised assumptions of the timing of capital expenditure.

W17

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS**

Can the Cabinet Member advise why he believes it is morally acceptable to send letters to frontline officers asking for interest of voluntary redundancy whilst at the same time increase the number of senior managers at the Council?

**Reply**

There are a variety of processes that are being used to ensure that the Council is able to achieve a balanced budget in year and next year.

Any increases in roles at senior management level have to be signed off by the Head of Paid Service personally and are only being agreed where there is an essential business case for the role.

I have strong views on the morality of the deep real-term spending cuts that the UK Government has imposed on the public sector over the last 12 years. I consider the response of seeking expressions of interest in voluntary redundancy a sadly necessary approach to meeting the need to propose a balanced budget, whilst we have a UK Government that simply does not adequately fund public services.

The communication regarding voluntary redundancy was issued to all staff (not including schools) and not just frontline officers. Voluntary redundancy is a method of reducing compulsory redundancies at a time of significant budget challenges, which we are currently experiencing and is a methodology supported by Trade Unions. All cases will have to have a robust business case linked to the deletion of the post, which will of course take into account the work carried out.

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

W18

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR**

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the begging protocol being developed with South Wales Police for people experiencing street homelessness?

**Reply**

South Wales Police have been developing a new initiative, known as Operation Luscombe, to address concerns around street begging. They have confirmed there are no plans to roll-out Operation Luscombe in Cardiff.

The Council and South Wales Police will continue to work together under existing begging protocol arrangements in Cardiff, which ensure that individuals leading street-based lifestyles are treated respectfully and punitive action is taken only as a very last resort.

Our local protocol enables the Homeless Outreach Team to be involved so that supportive interventions can be made to address the reasons for street begging. Clients can be referred for support from the

Homeless Multi-Disciplinary Team so that a holistic approach can be taken to addressing their underlying needs. Our services also encourage individuals living in supported accommodation into positive activities and away from spending time on the street.

In addition, the Council continues to work in partnership with the police and other agencies through the Street Based Lifestyles strategic group established by the Cardiff Community Safety Partnership, which ensures that partner agencies are consulted on any new initiatives so that all views are considered.

The Homeless Outreach Team continues to work hard to ensure that the numbers of people sleeping rough is kept as low as possible. The most recent figures show that only 11 individuals are sleeping rough in the city. Officers also continually review services to ensure that meaningful pathways are in place to help these vulnerable individuals to make long-term positive changes in their lives.

W19

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER**

Are there any plans to extend the opening hours of Hybs in order to provide Warm Spaces into the evenings?

**Reply**

As part of the national scheme, Warm Welcome spaces launched in Hubs across the city on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, providing a welcoming, supportive space for residents to access. Our Community Hubs and Libraries are open until 6pm five days a week, with a 7pm close a further one night per week.

Currently, there are no plans to extend opening hours in Hubs later into the evenings; however, should there be a demand for this, officers will work with third sector organisations to seek to address this using all community buildings within the locality.

To date, 750 residents have made use of the dedicated spaces. In addition to a hot drink and a chat, information about events and advice has also been provided, with 193 people who used the Warm Welcome space offer in the Hubs also accessing advice on food and fuel poverty.

Alongside the Warm Welcome spaces in our Hubs, officers are working with Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC) to offer grants of up

	<p>to £1,500 to community organisations to support them to provide Warm Welcome spaces from their community buildings.</p> <p>The Warm Welcome interactive map (<a href="http://www.warmwelcome.uk">www.warmwelcome.uk</a>) is now live and allows residents to easily search for warm spaces near them. I would encourage all organisations offering these spaces to register their provision on this website to make it easy for residents to look up warm spaces that are available close by. This will also help officers to identify and address any gaps in the provision of warm spaces across the city.</p> <p>Officers have already recruited seven Warm Welcome volunteers to support staff in running these spaces. I would urge anyone who would be interested in volunteering to call us on (029) 2087 1071 or by emailing: <a href="mailto:volunteeringcardiff@cardiff.gov.uk">volunteeringcardiff@cardiff.gov.uk</a> for more information.</p>
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**INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT**  
**(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)**

W20	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></b></p> <p>How much did Cardiff Council receive for the sale of car parks in Cardiff, please specify per car park?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Councillor will recall that he tabled the same question at the November 2014 Council meeting. I can confirm that the answer remains the same as it was on that date.</p>
W21	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council how many meetings he has had with business leaders over the past 12 months?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>As the Councillor would expect and in accordance with my Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, I meet regularly with many representatives of leading businesses in the city, both formally and informally. I also spoke at a meeting of Cardiff Business Club in December last year, where I outlined the administration's plans for the city and invited those</p>

	business leaders present to contact me so that they could input into our plans.
W22	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></b></p> <p>Can the council erect fences and secure the site of the old Retreat Pub in Llanedeyrn?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Councillor will be aware that the land has always been open and well maintained during the time that it was leased to Brains. The Council will continue to cut the grass and maintain the site, but the cost of fencing off the whole site is prohibitive in the current financial climate.</p>

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

W23	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></b></p> <p>Can the Leader inform the Council how he assesses the performance of Cabinet Members?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>I would refer you to the answer that I gave you previously at the meeting of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2022. Furthermore, I will be reflecting on the experience of the UK Government in the last two months about how best to assess the performance and integrity of Cabinet Members.</p>
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**SOCIAL SERVICES (JOB SHARE)**  
**(COUNCILLORS ASH LISTER & NORMA MACKIE)**

W24	<b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK</u></b>
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From referral into independent living service to actually receiving service to meet need (not just assessment), how long do people wait across different service areas?

**Reply**

Multiple services are offered by our Independent Living Service and those who contact our First Point of Contact have a wide range of needs. All requests for service are triaged to identify the urgency of their need and to prioritise services accordingly. For example, a high priority or urgent case may involve carer breakdown, hospital discharge, hospital admission avoidance or an urgent need due to a specific crisis.

Like many council services, the Independent Living Service is facing challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. This is true of both Contact Officer and Occupational Therapist posts. This means that prioritising those most in need is more important than ever and, as a result, it also means that those with lesser need will unfortunately wait longer. It is therefore not possible to say definitively how long a person will have to wait for the different services provided by the Independent Living Service, other than those with a priority or urgent need as set out below:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Priority/Urgent Need</b>
First Point of Contact (Community)	Same day or next working day
First Point of Contact (Hospital)	Same day or next working day
Visiting Service	Same day or next working day
Equipment Delivery	Same day or next working day
Occupational Therapist	48hrs for priority cases; up to 28 days
Disabled Facilities/Adaptations	Survey within 2 working days of referral.  Timescales for works vary depending on type – e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straight stairlift = 10 working days</li> <li>• Curved stairlift = 20 working days</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level bathroom (take out bath and replace with low level access shower) = up to 60 days</li> </ul>
<p>Every effort is being made to address current recruitment issues with rolling adverts on the Council's website and ongoing collaboration with the Into Work Advice Service and Cardiff Works. Recruiting professional posts such as Occupational Therapists and Social Workers is a particular challenge currently due to a national shortage of these roles. However, it has been possible to bring on board Occupational Therapy Assistants who are able to deal with many low-level cases. Visiting Officers are also assisting with high priority cases.</p>		

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

W25	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></b></p> <p>What consideration has been given to making the Gabalfa ward a Low Traffic Neighbourhood?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Many areas of the city would benefit from the filtering out of through traffic and we will shortly be introducing a scheme in the Llanishen Ward to tackle a longstanding problem of rat-running traffic along Fishguard Road and Crystal Glen. This scheme will restrict access along those streets to people who live locally and will be enforced by CCTV enforcement cameras. If successful, we will be looking to roll-out this initiative to other suitable areas in the city.</p>
W26	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></b></p> <p>Given that the road narrowing arrangements on Gwern Rhuddi Road in Cyncoed cause significant traffic build up at peak travel times and add to pollution, the council has indicated previously that the road</p>

	<p>narrowing will be removed in favour of other traffic calming measures. Can the council indicate when it proposes to consult residents with a view to moving ahead with this proposal?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council is fully committed to delivering a major grant-funded programme of strategic transport improvements in the city. As a result, whilst the removal of this priority narrowing in Cyncoed may be desirable, undertaking this as an isolated scheme would not represent best use of resources at the current time.</p>
W27	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></b></p> <p>What is the council doing to tackle problem parking across Cardiff, particularly on pavements and at junctions?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council seeks to implement parking restrictions at junctions at the same time as new safety or parking schemes are being developed. Once in place, such restrictions allow illegal parkers to be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice by the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. In addition, there is a team dedicated to safety around schools which seeks to improve safety for all road users and pedestrians at school pick up and drop off times. The Council currently receives a large number of requests for parking restrictions around junctions and, as such, resource is directed towards those areas which are of most concern.</p>
W28	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></b></p> <p>With the change from 30 to 20 mph speed limits next year, will the council bear any of the costs for changes to signage or road markings in the city; if so, what is the estimated expenditure?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Grant funding will be sought from the Welsh Government to support the costs of changing signs and road markings. At this time, the</p>

Council does not have an estimate of the costs of implementing the new default 20mph speed limit in Cardiff from September 2023.

W29

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD**

How many traffic enforcement patrols have been undertaken in Gabalfa ward in each of the last 6 months and in the same months last year for comparison?

**Reply**

Over the last six months, Civil Parking Enforcement Officers have attended the Gabalfa Ward to patrol a total of 2,320 times, compared to 2,056 patrols that were undertaken in the same period last year, as outlined below:

<b>2021/22 (Month)</b>	<b>Patrols</b>	<b>PCNs Issued</b>	<b>2022/23 (Month)</b>	<b>Patrols</b>	<b>PCNs Issued</b>
April 2021	452	166	April 2022	266	87
May 2021	325	138	May 2022	218	90
June 2021	329	131	June 2022	342	161
July 2021	357	123	July 2022	487	171
August 2021	296	102	August 2022	398	120
Sept 2021	297	143	Sept 2022	609	205
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>834</b>

Gabalfa has also been monitored using our mobile enforcement vehicle, which reported 66 vehicles parking in contravention over the last six months, compared to 64 vehicles reported during the same period last year.

W30

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK**

What budget was allocated to Cyncoed ward to make unsafe pavements safe per financial year for the last 10 years?

As a result, how many pavements have been made safe each year and how many are on the waiting list?

Could you name them please?

**Reply**

Approximately £526,000 has been spent on localised footway surface repairs (patching) in Cyncoed since 2017/18 (see table below). At

present, no further work is planned in Cyncoed in the current financial year.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>No of Streets</b>	<b>Square Metres</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
2017/18	27	1620	81,000
2018/19	5	124	6,200
2019/20	13	1918	95,900
2020/21	22	3391	169,550
2021/22	12	2054	102,700
2022/23	7	1412	70,600

Approximately £251,000 has been spent on footway resurfacing/reconstruction in Cyncoed since 2017/18 (see table below).

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number/Name of Streets</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
2017/18	3 (Celyn Avenue, Duffryn Avenue cul-de-sac, Clearwater Way)	142,000
2018/19	-	-
2019/20	-	-
2020/21	-	-
2021/22	1 (Nant-Fawr Crescent – Phase 1)	50,556
2022/23	1 (Nant-Fawr Crescent – Phase 2)	58,000

A number of streets in Cyncoed have put forward by local ward members for consideration in terms of future footway works and you will obviously already be aware of these. These locations will be reviewed and assessed by officers in terms of their condition and safety to determine whether or not any of them will be included within the 2023/24 work programme.

W31

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK**

Cyncoed Road has needed traffic calming and speed reduction measures for a long time, however nothing has happened. Could you update on what plans are being considered to reduce traffic and speed on Cyncoed Road to make it safer for families with children walking to local school and for any elderly people who live in and around the area to walk and cross the road?

**Reply**

The speed limit on Cyncoed Road will become 20mph when the new legislation to make 20mph the default national speed limit in Wales

	<p>comes into effect in September next year. The Welsh Government is committed to working closely with the police to develop a strategy for enforcement when the new 20mph limit comes into effect. The Welsh Government has also made it clear to local authorities that it is not seeking to support the general introduction of traffic calming as a means of achieving compliance with the new speed limit.</p> <p>Following the new 20mph legislation coming into effect, the Council will carry out monitoring of vehicle speeds across the city. The data gathered will give an indication of the impact of the 20mph speed limit on vehicle speeds and highlight any locations where there are lower levels of compliance with the new speed limit and where vehicle speeds significantly exceed it. How local authorities should address such locations has not yet been determined and this will require further consideration by the Welsh Government, local authorities and road safety bodies.</p> <p>As a result, we are currently not in a position to consider the implementation of any new traffic calming schemes in the city.</p>
W32	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></b></p> <p>Will Cardiff Bus and other local bus service providers have access and use of the new Cardiff Bus Interchange?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The new bus interchange will be operated and managed by Transport for Wales who are in discussions with local bus operators about how best to utilise the bays within the new interchange; however, it is a decision for the operators themselves as to whether or not they wish to use the facility.</p>
W33	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></b></p> <p>What is the average usage of the Pentwyn Park and Ride, and how many times has it been full to capacity over the last 12 months?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The average number of vehicles using the Cardiff East Park and Ride site for journeys to the city centre has been less than 50 per day over</p>

	<p>the last 12 months; however, the site is well-used in terms of serving the University Hospital of Wales. The facility has not reached full capacity at any time during this period.</p>
W34	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></b></p> <p>Are there any plans to create safe pedestrian access around the Pentwyn Interchange?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Active travel improvements, including safe pedestrian access around the Pentwyn Interchange, are being considered as part of our regeneration plans for the neighbouring Llanrumney and Pentwyn estates.</p>
W35	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></b></p> <p>Further to your answer to Written Question W51 in September, residents advise that the Council's twitter feed highlights a diversion route via Beulah Road (tweet of 16th September). Please can you check what advisory routes are being promoted on the Council's social media?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Council has not actively promoted an advisory route using Beulah Road, as a result of the works to Caerphilly Road railway bridge, on any social media. The Council's Communications Team has also advised they are not aware of any tweet containing such advice on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022; however, a link to a previous press release (dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022) was tweeted on that date, which included details of road closures and travel advice due to the visit of the new King and Queen Consort to Cardiff on 16<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>The Council has placed traffic signs in the area advising drivers of a diversionary route using Heathwood Road, which we consider suitable for the majority of traffic. However, as I confirmed previously in reply to your Written Questions on this issue last month, there is no legal</p>

	<p>requirement for vehicles to use this route and drivers are able to find an alternative route as they wish, subject to any height restrictions.</p>
W36	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></b></p> <p>Following the weight restriction on the Caerphilly Road railway bridge, has any consideration been given to temporary lifting any other weight restrictions until the bridge is repaired?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The weight restriction was implemented at the request of Amey, acting on behalf of the bridge owner, Transport for Wales. The purpose of the reduced weight limit is to ensure that the bridge can carry the safest permitted vehicle load until suitable strengthening repairs are carried out. Lifting of the weight restriction before the repair works are completed may accelerate deterioration by overloading the components of the bridge, which could lead to a further weight reduction or temporary closure being implemented.</p>
W37	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></b></p> <p>In light of the weight restriction on the Caerphilly Road railway bridge leading to HGVs diverting on Beulah Road, will the Council undertake a traffic survey on Beulah Road (near to its junction with Heol-y-Deri) to see if any improvements to the parking can be made without detriment to local shops and businesses?</p> <p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>Officers will review parking restrictions in the Beulah Road area and undertake the necessary surveys to see if any amendments are required as a result of the temporary weight restriction on the Caerphilly Road railway bridge.</p>
W38	<p><b><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></b></p> <p>Following the weight restriction on the Caerphilly Road railway bridge, what consideration was given to the Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>

Act during discussions with Transport for Wales (TfW) concerning the restriction and likely alternative routes for any displaced HGVs?

**Reply**

Transport for Wales (TfW) is the bridge owner and this is their project. The Council is only a third party in terms of our interest in the structural integrity of the bridge and availability of the road network. Any consideration of the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015 are a matter for TfW as the client; however, TfW is not currently subject to the well-being duty, as set out in Part 2 of the Act, as it was established subsequently as a new devolved public body in 2016. The Welsh Government has recently consulted on proposals to include TfW within the list of those public bodies in Wales covered by the Act and for TfW to be subject to the well-being duty from 1 April 2023.