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**FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT**

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**Living Wage Week**

The Council played a full role in the celebration of Living Wage Week during the week commencing 14 November 2022, with the Living Wage flags flying once again at Cardiff Castle. I was pleased to take part in the celebrations in Cardiff on 14 November with the Leader of Council at Cardiff University's sbarc|spark building on Maindy Road, which is one of only two accredited Living Wage buildings in Wales. The Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership has developed and submitted its next 3-year Action Plan to the Living Wage Foundation, and I am pleased to confirm that Cardiff's status as a Living Wage City has been renewed for the next three years, following confirmation by the Living Wage Foundation at the start of Living Wage Week. Our new action plan includes ambitious targets for having 300 accredited Living Wage employers and 95,000 staff working for an accredited Living Wage employer, of whom almost 14,000 will see an uplift in pay to the real Living Wage. In the current climate, the real Living Wage is more important than ever.

**Cardiff Business Awards 2022 – Cardiff Living Wage Partnership**

I attended the Cardiff Business Awards on 11 November 2022 to present an award for Best Employer, which was sponsored by the Cardiff Living Wage Partnership and won by Box UK, a multi-award-winning software company. Highlighting the real Living Wage amongst Cardiff businesses is an important part of promoting Cardiff as a Living Wage City. The Council continues to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the city who choose to accredit to the Living Wage Foundation through our Living Wage Accreditation Support Scheme, which covers the initial accreditation cost for SMEs.

**White Ribbon Day**

Members will be aware from recent correspondence on 17 November 2022 from my colleague, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, that the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls is held annually on 25 November. This day is also known widely as White Ribbon Day, named after the White Ribbon UK charity that engages men and boys to end violence against women and girls, and the Council organises a series of related events annually to raise awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and the services and interventions that are available in Cardiff for victims, survivors and for those who perpetrate harm.

At the start of the month, I chaired the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Board, which received an update on the 3-year action plan that the Council is implementing as an accredited White Ribbon organisation. I'm also pleased to have recently become a White Ribbon Ambassador, a role which men across the UK can take up. The role of a White Ribbon Ambassador is varied and there are many different ways in which to be involved and take action, and I would encourage all Members to try to publicise or support a White Ribbon event if you are able and to consider becoming a White Ribbon Ambassador or Champion.

### **CardiffGov Mobile App**

At the end of October 2022, the total number of downloads for the CardiffGov mobile app was 66,953 since it was launched. The Accessibility Statement for the app was reviewed last month, with updates being published this month. Testing is also taking place this month on the development work that has been undertaken on the Recycling Centre booking system in advance of an update being made to the app in December. The next service being developed for the app will enable residents to report street lighting issues.

### **Website**

[www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk) had 220,000 visits last month, with 732,000 pages viewed. In October, 67% of website visitors used a mobile device and 23,700 online payments were made via the website totalling £2.8million. 88% of Penalty Charge Notice appeals and 60% of parking permit applications were completed online. 80% of problem parking reports were also made online using the new web/app service. Visits to website content on benefits and grants are up 55% since the October price cap increase came into effect, with 60% of these visits seeking information on winter fuel support. The website achieved 94% AA level accessibility compliance last month and continues to be in joint second place among the 22 council websites in Wales as rated by SOCITM's accessibility partner, SilkTide.

### **Wales Interpretation and Translation Service (WITS)**

The Wales Interpretation and Translation Service (WITS) continues to see month-on-month increases in demand for linguistic support, with a 1% increase in October 2022 compared to the previous month. When comparing to the same period last year, there has been a 35% increase compared to October 2021. The top five interpretation languages requested were Arabic; Polish; Ukrainian; BSL and Kurdish Sorani. The top five translation languages were Polish; Arabic; Ukrainian; Russian and Kurdish Sorani.

**Councillor Chris Weaver**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**  
**18 November 2022**