

COUNCIL, 24 NOVEMBER 2022 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE
(COUNCILLOR ED STUBBS)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Why was an Environmental Impact Assessment deemed unnecessary before granting planning permission considering the site is on the old council landfill (pre-1980s) with potentially toxic waste dumped there and that the site is also on the River Taff corridor making it a flood plain?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Where is the highways assessment that should accompany such a large and invasive construction project in a built up urban area?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>The issues of siting a new sewage pumping station on Hailey Park has caused great concern for residents. Apart from what was approved in the recent planning application, have the council had discussions with Developers and/or Dwr Cymru to site additional infrastructure onto land in Danescourt to accommodate the sewage pumping station?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>When was the cabinet member and the council made aware that Dwr Cymru plan to clear a large area of land very close to Hermit Wood SINC in Danescourt to install a large compound to service the works associated with the sewage pumping station in Hailey Park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>Regarding Hailey Park, why was planning permission given to the Plasdwr housing development without a costed, sustainable, and effective infrastructure plan agreed with the developers for sewage and drainage?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>

W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>When planning to build the Hailey Park development, why was an Environmental Impact Assessment deemed unnecessary before granting planning permission, considering the site is on the old council landfill (pre-1980s) with potentially toxic waste dumped there and that the site is also on the River Taff corridor making it a flood plain?</p> <p>Will this now take place?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
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CLIMATE CHANGE
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What is the council doing to ensure that drains are kept clear of leaf fall and debris to prevent localised water pooling and flooding, particularly on roads with parked cars where mechanical street cleaners are unable to reach the drains?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Cleansing teams work to a leaf fall schedule for three months from October every year. Properties at risk of flooding form part of a schedule of higher risk areas in the city, which are targeted weekly and before forecasts of high rainfall periods. The teams are made up of both transit teams who sweep by hand in hard to access areas, such as those with parked cars, and small mechanical sweepers that are deployed in more easily accessible areas.</p>
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	<p>Prior to the cleansing teams being deployed, the streets with trees and surrounding streets are assessed for leaf fall by Cleansing Supervisors. Any streets where there are drainage concerns are added to the schedule of 'hotspot' locations in the city going forward to help limit highway and property flooding.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>There has been a spate of localised flooding incidents in recent weeks due to heavy rainfall. Given the likelihood that such incidents may persist over the coming months, what plans does the council have to deal with such incidents particularly where they occur most frequently?</p> <p>What steps are being taken to ensure that the drains and gullies on our roads are as free as possible of the build-up of silt and mud which is often a complicating factor?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are approximately 90,000 highway drainage gullies and 400km of carrier pipe for which the Council has responsibility in terms of 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.</p> <p>When there is a forecast of high rainfall, the Highways Drainage Team will attend known 'hotspot' locations in the city and clear obstructions, including silt, mud, and leaves, from the area to help reduce the risk of flooding.</p> <p>The Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team works to apply for funding from the Welsh Government for flood alleviation schemes in the city. Where funding applications are successful, these schemes will lower the flood risk from ordinary watercourses and pluvial sources such as rainfall. Flood alleviation schemes are funded utilising Council and Welsh Government flood risk capital funding. Criteria for this funding is based on modelled flood risk and evidenced flooding events. As a result, it is vital that councillors and residents report all flooding incidents by email to the Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team at: FCRM@cardiff.gov.uk so the incident can be recorded on our flooding database and a flood investigation undertaken. These events will then feed into future applications for external funding.</p>

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Residents in Cyncoed and Lakeside are continuing to send in complaints about missed waste collections affecting especially garden waste, green recycling bags and food waste. This includes complaints from residents who are eligible for an assisted lift and from residents living at blocks of flats concerning communal bins. Responses to complaints via the councillors' collection requests email address are usually prompt but clearly require additional vehicle journeys to rectify the problem and so incur more costs.

Can the council indicate: what costs are being incurred to deal with missed waste collections in the current financial year and how these compare with previous years especially in the 2018-2019 financial year pre-pandemic; how the number of missed collection incidents compares with 2018-2019; how the council is seeking to bear down on missed waste collections?

Reply

Missed waste collections have been dealt with by collection teams working on an overtime basis. Where practical, missed collection requests are allocated back to collection teams to clear within their working day; however, this is not always possible and overtime is sometimes used to clear missed collections.

An overview of overtime costs from the past three financial years is provided below for comparison:

2019/20 = £244K (pre-pandemic)

2020/21 = £168K (Covid-19 pandemic)

2021/22 = £120K (following the introduction of 4-day working)

A comparison of reported missed collections from the past three financial years is provided in the table below:

	Missed Collection Reports		
Year	April-September	October-March	Total
2019/20	7,688	6,316	14,004
2020/21	6,335	11,948	18,283
2021/22	9,284	6,993	16,277

It should be noted that in the latter half of 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the service area. In February 2021, there was also a significant change to operations with the move to the 4-day working model.

As with any change of this scale, some operational issues were expected whilst the new service bedded in. There was an increase in reported missed collections between February 2021 and August 2021, but these reduced as the new 4-day working model became established. The service has continued to improve through the current financial year.

Confirmed national driver shortages have contributed to disruptions in the garden waste service and officers are working to embed greater resilience into the service for the recommencement of garden waste collections in March 2023.

Alongside the roll-out of the 4-day working model, the service introduced a digital solution to enable residents to report missed collections via the Council's CardiffGov mobile app. This has helped to remove any barriers to reporting missed collections, making the process of reporting missed collections more accessible. Missed collection reports can be raised by residents for any waste stream once the street has been logged as completed by the crew on the in-cab device. If the crew has not logged any 'events' to evidence why a collection could not be completed, such as contamination, a damaged bin or the incorrect collection day, then a collection crew is sent back to recover the missed collection.

The majority of missed collection complaints logged are genuine; however, we have seen numerous examples of reports being raised that are inaccurate (i.e. reporting a bin that has been presented late as being missed) and we have the technology on the vehicles to allow us to respond appropriately to such false reports. The service area is continually reviewing and updating the technology used to manage the collection service in order to provide further operational improvements.

W10

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

From what locations is sewerage discharged into the River Taff (within Cardiff's boundary) and what action is the Council taking, in partnership with Welsh Water, to reduce the amount discharged into the River Taff?

Reply

There are a number of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) across the city as they offer flood risk resilience for the combined sewers and were installed extensively during the 1980's and 1990's. They often discharge to either a river, ordinary watercourse, surface water sewer or the sea. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is the regulatory authority for the permitting and control of CSOs and work directly with Welsh Water in relation to them.

If there is a misconnection from a property into a surface water sewer or watercourse, the Council has enforcement powers under The Building Act 1984; however, unfortunately, the Council has no enforcement powers regarding both permitted and unpermitted discharges from CSOs and these powers lie solely with NRW.

Through the enactment of Schedule 3 of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010, surface water connections into Welsh Water combined systems are being removed as per Standard 1 of the Sustainable Drainage standards. The Council is actively collaborating with Welsh Water to increase the volume of surface water removal from their systems, which, in turn, will lower the impact of the CSOs in the city.

W11

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

Since the installation/construction of the bus lane outside the former BBC site on Llantrisant Road, the road constantly floods from highways surface run off. Before the construction of the bus lane this flooding of the road did not exist. Garages to the rear of homes on Bridge Road, Llandaff are flooding because of ineffective surface water drainage system. The volume of sitting water is buckling garage doors causing permanent damage, leaving garages a foot deep with water. These reoccurring incidents have been causing great distress to residents. Residents are grateful for the investigations, maintenance and drain clearing measures undertaken by officers to date. But despite this work the problem continues. The new drainage system installed with the construction of the bus lane is unable to cope. Clearly, regular drain clearing maintenance has not solved the problem. Is it acceptable that highway surface water is discharging onto these properties?

And can the cabinet member explain what more can be done to resolve this long-standing issue that's causing enormous stress for residents?

Reply

Officers from the Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team have been in continued dialogue with the residents in the area and arranged for Arch Services to undertake an intensive cleanse and CCTV survey. The survey determined there are a number of blockages within the carrier pipe that the highway gullies connect to, sections of which were fully blocked with tree roots. Arch Services attempted to remove the tree roots, but the standard cleansing equipment was unable to clear the blockage. As a result, the incident case officer has now instructed Arch Services to use specialist root cutting equipment to remove the blockages and ensure that the system is operating 100% effectively.

To undertake these remedial works, extensive traffic management is required and discussions are currently underway with the Council's Network Management Team to agree a suitable commencement date. Officers from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team will continue to communicate with the residents in the area after completion of these works to ensure that no further flooding incidents occur; however, should this happen, then further remedial works will be planned.

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

How often are the drains monitored and cleared, especially during leaf fall season?

Reply

Leaf clearance by the Council's Love Where You Live and Cleansing Teams started the week commencing 10th October 2022 (Week A) and 17th October 2022 (Week B) in both the east and west of the city. Further details of the leaf fall cleansing schedules by ward can be found on the Council's website at: [Clearing fallen leaves \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/clearing-fallen-leaves)

These schedules will be repeated during the leaf fall period until the majority of leaves have fallen. The Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team also works with the Cleansing and Highways Drainage Teams to identify locations where there is risk of property flooding from leaf fall having an impact on drains. The drains are cleared on the same cycle but, when there is a forecast of high rainfall, teams will attend known 'hotspot' locations in the city and clear the leaves from the area to help reduce the risk of flooding.

W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>On what date did NRW inform Redrow, Welsh Water & Cardiff Council that sewage disposal from the Plasdwr development could not be accommodated within the system in West Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
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CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS
(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE-DAVIES)

W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What action is the council taking to address crime and antisocial behaviour issues in and around Maitland Park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is working in partnership with South Wales Police in response to concerns that have been raised within the local community. Arrangements are being made to install temporary CCTV cameras to facilitate surveillance of the park, which will help in identifying offenders. South Wales Police colleagues are also developing a patrolling strategy to be implemented at Maitland Park. I would be happy to arrange for officers to meet with you and Councillor Wood to discuss matters in more detail if you think it would be beneficial.</p>
W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Given the intention to build a sewage pumping station on part of Hailey Park, what protections could Cardiff Council give to other publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the city to prevent this kind of destructive development taking place?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>What plans does the Council have to install public viewing screens for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6th May 2023?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Platinum Jubilee celebrations that took place earlier this year were supported by the UK Government Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as part of a cross-government working group that was chaired in Wales by the Welsh Government. There have been no plans disseminated at this time for a similar arrangement to be put in place for next May's Coronation as, presumably, these are still being developed.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Has Cardiff Council received any communication from Natural Resources Wales in relation to their investigation into the algae blooms in the River Taff over the summer and, if so, what was the outcome of their investigations?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has regular dialogue with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in relation to all bodies of water in Cardiff, particularly through the warmer months when algal blooms are most prevalent. Earlier this year, Cardiff Harbour Authority's monitoring equipment indicated the presence of blue-green algae in the waterways feeding into Cardiff Bay. However, NRW biologists analysed a range of samples and concluded subsequently that there was no presence of blue-green algae and it was simply an anomaly in the monitoring equipment with no further actions required.</p>

W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet member update the Council on progress being made on Drover’s Way Park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you will now be aware, the Council has identified a funding source that will enable the drainage scheme to progress. The scheme is essential to the re-instatement of the play area on site.</p> <p>Works on the drainage scheme are scheduled to commence next month and it is anticipated that these will be completed by the end of March 2023. Officers will be in contact with ward members shortly to provide a more specific timeline.</p> <p>As the entire site will be occupied by our contractor, works to improve the play area will follow immediately after completion and formal sign off of the drainage scheme by the Council. Officers will also provide an indicative timeline for the play area works shortly.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>What is the Cabinet’s position on granting Radyr Rangers a lease on Mound Field, Morganstown so it can apply for funding streams to upgrade facilities?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has a history of working with many sports clubs in the city to develop lease agreements in order for them to access external funding from their affiliated governing bodies for sport. Some very good examples include the Victoria Park Beach Volleyball Centre, Cardiff Draconians Football Club, Llwynfedw Gardens Bowling Pavilion and at Trelai Bowls Pavilion through the Ely/Caerau Sports Trust.</p> <p>I am committed to supporting clubs like Radyr Rangers in obtaining the security of tenure required to attract the external funding to invest and improve facilities for the benefit of the community. As you will be aware, the Council has negotiated with Transport for Wales for the provision of a legacy building for the club and community at Mound Field on completion of the works.</p>

W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>Residents in Llandaff North and surrounding areas have raised legitimate concerns about the sewer treatment unit and the loss of open green space at Hailey Park in the North of the City. At the Council's Cabinet Meeting in September 2022, was the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events aware of the proposals contained within the documents pack (of the meeting in question) to dispose of land at Hailey Park and will the Cabinet Member confirm she voted on this item?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events confirm that prior to voting on items as a member of the Council's Cabinet she reads relevant and material documents before voting on items?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Yes.</p>
W22	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>What is the proposed timescale for determining revised operating arrangements at St David's Hall?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>This will be set out in a report to Cabinet in December 2022.</p>

W23	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>In October's Council, the cabinet promised to fully identify all community groups, organisations and peoples who have an interest or use St David's Hall. Who is on this list?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A list of community groups and organisations will form part of the report that will be presented to Cabinet in December 2022.</p>
W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>What criteria have the cabinet utilised to identify key stakeholders in St David's Hall to uphold their promise to ensure a full and comprehensive consultation?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>To date, the Council has engaged with primary classical stakeholders of the facility and identified all key stakeholders. If Cabinet agrees to pursue the proposal, further engagement will take place through the budget process.</p>
W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>How much influence will the views of the community groups, organisations and peoples who use St David's Hall have when it comes to ensuring any new operator is contractually committed to continuing the offer that St David's Hall is currently nationally, and internationally, renowned for?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2022 that will consider the future of St David's Hall. Should the Council decide to engage an external operator of the building, it will choose an operator that is committed to the continued use of the venue as the National Concert Hall of Wales and to protecting the community programme. This will be established through a legally binding contract.</p>

W26

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN

How many organisations or companies have expressed an interest in taking over the management of St David's Hall, and what criteria have the cabinet set out to ensure the council will get the best value for money as well as operating service from the winning tender?

Reply

The future of St David's Hall has been under review for over a decade, initially initiated by the onset of financial cuts to local government and, more recently, in order to find a solution to mitigate the substantial costs associated with the deterioration of the building.

In 2016, the Council undertook a full public procurement exercise for St David's Hall and New Theatre over an 18-month period. The initial interest generated in St David's Hall dissipated once the scale of liability relating to the condition of the building was fully understood by bidders. There was however significant interest in the New Theatre through the process and this led to the Council bringing forward a slightly reframed proposal in 2019, which has seen the venue transfer to an external operator, and this arrangement is now working very effectively.

The proposal from the Academy Music Group (AMG) for St David's Hall is a unique opportunity that relates to Live Nation's wider investment in a new Arena in the city. It presents an opportunity through the delivery of a new O2 Academy facility for them to retain a significant music presence in the city centre when the Arena relocates to Cardiff Bay. This would further the city's music offer and, at the same time, protect the classical programme delivered by the National Concert Hall. A report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2022 setting out the proposal in detail.

W27

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD

After many residents asking in my ward, please can you provide an update on Pentwyn Leisure Centre and any future plans to develop it or sell it to Cardiff Blues?

Reply

A report on the Council's Leisure Services contract with GLL was considered by Cabinet last month. The report included an update on the proposals for Pentwyn Leisure Centre and a commitment to consider a further report, which is scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in January 2023. The Council has no intention of selling Pentwyn Leisure Centre to Cardiff Rugby. Instead, the Council has been in discussions with Cardiff Rugby about their continued use of part of the centre, through a lease agreement, which will establish the centre as their main training facility. All the main facilities of the leisure centre will remain open to the public. The costs of the proposed refurbishment have risen significantly and, therefore, the Council is reviewing what is achievable within the approved allocated budget and this will be considered as part of the report to Cabinet in January 2023.

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W28

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What is the latest date at which the council will bring forward plans to address school capacity issues at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan?

Reply

The Council consulted on proposed changes to primary school provision serving Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd in early 2021 and sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The outcome of the consultation showed that whilst there was support overall for the expansion of Welsh-medium education, the majority of respondents, including the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, did not support the proposed changes.

In February 2022, the Cabinet considered a report which set out details of the responses received following consultation on the Cardiff's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2031 and agreed submission of the approved WESP to Welsh Government Ministers. The WESP was subsequently agreed by the Welsh Government and work is being progressed to develop/implement an action plan.

The approved WESP includes a commitment to deliver at least four forms of entry of new Welsh-medium capacity at primary level by 2025-2026 through progressing proposals to increase Welsh-medium primary school provision serving Birchgrove, Gabalfa, Heath and Plasnewydd in the central area of the city. The Council remains committed to bringing these proposals forward and officers are progressing the necessary workstreams to allow for proposals to be brought forward for consideration by Cabinet in early 2023.

FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W29

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How much has Cardiff Council spent on taxis and hotel stays in each of the past 5 financial years?

Reply

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Taxis	£1,802,324	£1,135,214	£1,430,668	£1,057,614	£823,193
Hotels	£797,293	£1,080,253	£191,837	£231,781	£114,367

The requested figures are taken from the Council's financial ledger and include spending associated with these lines across all council services; however, there has been no detailed review of the figures to ensure complete accuracy.

The costs for taxis include home to school transport for children and transporting vulnerable adults within social care.

The costs for hotels include those costs relating to arrangements for placing people with housing/accommodation needs in temporary accommodation.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How much has been paid in expenses to each member of the Standards and Ethic Committee during the past 5 financial years, please specify individuals?

Reply

The prescribed remuneration and allowances payable to the 3 County Councillors and 6 Co-opted Members (5 Independent Members and 1 Community Councillor) of the Council's Standards and Ethics Committee is set out in the [Members' Schedule of Remuneration](#), which is approved annually by Council and published on the Council's website.

In accordance with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, details of the actual payments made annually is published on the Council's website and can be accessed via the following links:

[Member Remuneration and Allowances 2021-22.pdf](#)

[Member Remuneration and Allowances 2020-21.pdf](#)

[Member Remuneration and Allowances 2019-20.pdf](#)

[Member Remuneration and Allowances 2018-19.pdf](#)

[Member Remuneration and Allowances 2017-18.pdf](#)

The total allowance or expense payments made to Standards and Ethics Committee Members over the past five financial years is £24,043.10, which equates to an average of £4,808.62 per year.

W31

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance provide details of any representations he has personally made to the Welsh Government in respects to the forthcoming Financial Settlement (from Welsh Government) for Cardiff Council for 2023/24?

Reply

I have had informal discussions with the Minister for Finance and Local Government at meetings of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and, alongside council officers, have also conveyed the views of Cardiff Council to the WLGA regarding the current financial pressures facing local government in Wales, which have then been raised directly by them with the Welsh Government.

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W32	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Which councillors and when have bought commercial leases from the Council since 1999?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has not entered into any property transaction with any individual in their capacity as a Councillor.</p> <p>The Councillor will understand that hundreds of commercial leases have been let to individuals since 1999. How many of those transactions involved former or current members of local authorities is not known. However, I can confirm that all lease agreements with individuals have been completed on commercial terms.</p>
W33	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Why does Cardiff Council deem it necessary to lease the land at Hailey Park to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.</p>
W34	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>On what date were Cardiff Council first approached by Welsh Water in relation to using land for a sewerage pumping station at Hailey Park?</p>

Reply

A judicial review application has been submitted in relation to the planning application (ref: 21/02608/MNR) for the development of a sewage pumping station on land at Hailey Park by Welsh Water following consideration and approval by the Planning Committee on 8th September 2022. As a result, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on those matters given that it may prejudice the legal proceedings.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

In light of recent legislation at Westminster requiring voter identification at future elections, can the administration confirm whether this legislation applies in Wales?

If so, what steps are being taken to ensure that Cardiff's voters are aware of this requirement and that there will not be an adverse effect on already low voter turnout at local elections?

Reply

Yes, the legislation does apply in Wales, but for UK Parliamentary and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections only.

The requirement for voter ID is included within the Elections Act 2022 and will become live in the UK on 16th January 2023. All electors will have to produce photo ID in all polling stations.

Anyone registered who does not have one of the required forms of photo ID will be able to register for a Voter Authority Certificate via a portal on the <http://www.gov.uk> website. Poll cards will also become A4 documents, which will explain that photo ID will be required for people to be able to vote and include a link to the website portal for those who require a Voter Authority Certificate.

The Electoral Commission will run an engagement awareness campaign and provide local authorities with resources that can be used to promote the changes being introduced by the Elections Act 2022. Efforts will also be made to reach communities identified as less likely to already have voter ID (e.g. those aged over 85 years; transgender and non-binary people; ethnicities with low ID ownership, especially Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities; homeless people and those in refuges; anonymous voters). The Electoral Commission has also set up a Wales-wide network, which includes representation from Cardiff Council. This group will play a key role in co-ordinating the planning of communications and public awareness of all-Wales electoral events, activity and electoral modernisation and reform.

The Council's Electoral Services Team will also be working closely with colleagues from the Web Team to update our webpages and to expand the information available via the Council's chatbot, BOBi, in relation to the Elections Act 2022 and, in particular, the introduction of the new requirement for voter ID at the next PCC election in 2024 and the next UK Parliamentary election (date to be confirmed).

W36

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Can the Leader of the Council outline what steps he is taking to ensure members of the ruling Administration comply with the requirement to declare any conflict of interests they have and can he place on the public record whether he is aware of any occasions where members of the ruling Administration have failed to declare their conflicts of interest?

Reply

I lead by example, making every effort to comply with the Code of Conduct and to attend training on the Code of Conduct, and I would expect all councillors to do the same. I meet regularly with the Council's Monitoring Officer to discuss and seek to resolve any issues. I also attended a recent meeting of the Standards & Ethics Committee to discuss any issues with them. Failure to declare interests was not raised with me as a matter of concern at that meeting. It is, of course, a matter for each individual member to decide whether or not they need to declare an interest.

SOCIAL SERVICES (JOB SHARE)
(COUNCILLORS ASH LISTER & NORMA MACKIE)

W37	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Will the Cabinet set a target to end the use of unregulated care settings for looked-after children of any age?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Like all councils, Cardiff Children’s Services is experiencing extraordinary pressures following a significant rise in demand – to the extent that there is often no space available in registered children’s homes across the UK.</p> <p>In these circumstances, and when all alternatives have been explored, children are placed in ‘unregistered’ care settings, rather than ‘unregulated’ settings as you have stated in your question. These are safe environments with a raft of wraparound measures to meet the child’s needs and keep them safe while registered provision is identified. Every aspect is closely monitored by Children’s Services. These arrangements are temporary, and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) is notified and updated regularly on progress towards identifying regulated settings and plans to register those properties that are currently operating outside of registration.</p> <p>We have an ambitious programme to develop residential provision in Cardiff to address the national shortfall, the details of which will be set out in our Accommodation Strategy. Whilst we aim to only use registered care settings, it is not viable in the current climate to set a target to end their use entirely until the sufficiency issue is resolved.</p>
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TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING
(COUNCILLOR DAN DE’ATH)

W38	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>What sites in Fairwater and Ely have been identified for housing sites up until 2036?</p>
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	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council undertook a Call for Candidate Sites for possible inclusion in the Replacement LDP in summer 2021. Further details are publicly available on the Cardiff LDP website at: https://www.cardiffldp.co.uk/candidate-sites/ where a search of the candidate sites that were submitted can be filtered by ward.</p> <p>No sites were submitted by developers and landowners in the Fairwater ward. One site was submitted at Archer Road in the north of the Ely ward. This submission proposes a mixed-use scheme comprising residential development, community facilities and enhanced recreational facilities.</p> <p>The Council will be consulting on the candidate sites, alongside the Preferred Strategy, in the New Year and any comments received will feed into the assessment of the candidate sites, which will take place following this consultation.</p>
W39	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>In areas with lane gating, an increasingly common complaint is cars parking in front of the gates, preventing access. What could the council do to help prevent cars parking in front of lane gates or allow enforcement officers to take action against offending vehicles?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Officers are only able to take action when vehicles are parked in contravention of parking restrictions. Therefore, parking restrictions, such as those denoted by signs and lines, would need to be in place for them to be able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice against offending vehicles. If the entrance to the lane has a dropped kerb, there are circumstances where CPE Officers are able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice for vehicles parked across a dropped kerb. However, if the parking is dangerous or causing an obstruction, then it would need to be reported to South Wales Police who have the powers to enforce in these circumstances.</p>
W40	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Many road markings across the city are worn and faded, for example, on the approaches to the Gabalfa interchange. How often, if at all, are painted road markings inspected and is there a planned schedule of repainting for road markings?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Road markings are inspected as part of the scheduled safety inspections, which take place on all adopted roads across the city. Inspections are also carried out in response to any complaints that are received. The results of these inspections form the basis of our lining programme, which prioritises work based on the type of road marking and location. The programme runs continuously; however, it is weather dependent so lining works will be more affected during the winter months and this will impact on implementation of the programme. Gabalfa Interchange has been flagged as requiring a refresh of road markings and it is anticipated that this will be completed in the next financial year.</p>
W41	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Are the council considering reducing the possible number of resident parking permits per household to 2 (e.g. 2 cars, or 1 car and a visitor car) from the current 3 (e.g. 2 cars and a visitor car) in areas with resident permit parking?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>All options for permit allocations are under consideration as part of the ongoing review of parking policy. Any proposed changes, such as the one in your question, would be a change to current policy and would therefore require a decision by Cabinet.</p>
W42	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Will the Cabinet consider physically investigating sites when councillors have called for traffic calming measures before refusal?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council receives literally hundreds of requests for traffic calming across the city each year and, unfortunately, one of the impacts of the last 12 years of austerity has been the reduction in staff within the Council's Transport function. Consequently, staff do not have the capacity to carry out site inspections in response to the large number of requests that the Council receives.</p>

W43	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Why won't the Cabinet consider allowing residents to show proof of address to use city centre car parks at the regular commercial rate on days when event premiums are in place?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>On major event days in Cardiff, two city centre parking areas are set aside for event-only parking – Sophia Gardens pay & display car park and the on-street pay & display parking in the Civic Centre. These areas are in high demand and the income generated is used to cover the costs of the Council's statutory obligations in terms of road closures and network management. Currently, there is no surplus and the income covers all costs incurred annually.</p> <p>There are areas of parking immediately adjacent to the event-only parking areas that are not affected by the event parking charge. Residents are able to continue to use these parking areas at the usual parking rates. These areas include the pay & display car parks along North Road and adjacent to Llandaff Fields, and on-street pay & display parking on Park Place, Windsor Place and Museum Place.</p>
W44	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What plans do the council have to tackle on street parking issues in Llanedeyrn caused by staff and students at Cardiff Metropolitan University's Cyncoed campus?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I am aware that this issue has been raised and discussed in the past and that Cardiff Metropolitan University continues to promote alternative and sustainable travel options for its staff and students. We will monitor the position over coming months and, where appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, we will take enforcement action and also work closely with the University to consider potential solutions.</p>
W45	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>What plans do the council have to encourage active travel, discourage driving and improve road safety around Llanedeyrn Primary School?</p>

Reply

The Council's Transport Team is working with colleagues from the Education Directorate to develop a scheme that would make changes to the lay-by and car park directly outside Llanedeyrn Primary School. The current arrangement enables drivers to drive right to the school gate. Restricting access to only staff and those pupils using passenger transport provided by the Council would help discourage driving to school. To further discourage driving and parking in the surrounding area, the team will also consider further restrictions on Llanedeyrn Drive.

The Council has supported Llanedeyrn Primary School with the development of their active travel plan. This includes providing the school with a bike fleet and supporting the school to start using the WOW Travel Tracker in September 2022. The Council's Active Travel Schools Team is also about to start a project to deliver staff cycle training to give school staff the confidence and skills to coach cycling and Llanedeyrn Primary School has expressed an interest in getting staff trained up.

W46

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

What plans do the council have to improve the Glyngoed Road/Pentwyn Drive junction in Pentwyn following the petition in 2019 highlighting the high number of crashes and subsequent site visits with officers?

Reply

This junction will be re-assessed as part of the annual analysis of all collision sites in the city, which we carry out prior to submitting bids to the Welsh Government's Road Safety Grant fund. This analysis enables us to identify those sites in the city that are most in need of physical intervention to address factors contributing to collisions. Based on the assumption that there will be funding available from the Welsh Government's Road Safety Grant fund for road safety schemes in 2023/24, then we would expect that funding applications would be invited in December 2022.

W47

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

E-motorbikes and E-scooters are legally not allowed on public walkways i.e. Wern Goch Road walkway, Heol Esgyn Woods and Nant Fawr Crescent alleyway. Whilst there are railings and signs to indicate these are pedestrian only walkways, there are people who ignore these signs and use such vehicles on these walkways making it very unsafe for walkers of varied age and mobility. K barriers have been suggested and officers have stated these barriers will not be used to prevent these vehicles from using the walkways, so what is the council going to do to ensure people don't ignore signs and misuse such walkways, and make them unsafe for other users?

Reply

I have already provided you with a full response to your recent correspondence on these matters. As you are aware, e-scooters are not legally allowed to be used on the highway or on public land. Enforcement against their use is a police matter.

The 'K' barriers that you refer to in your question would not be an effective means of preventing the use of e-scooters as, because of their design, they would also prevent access to legitimate users of walkways, such as people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters. This is why officers do not support their installation and I fully support their position on this.

W48

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MOLIK

We received a letter from Welsh Government regarding the 20mph legislation on residential roads and roads with high levels of pedestrians. The letter claimed this legislation passed with cross party support and a high level of public approval. How is Cardiff Council going to enforce this and will there be exceptions for main arterial roads across the city?

What is the timescale for this be in place across the city?

Reply

In May 2019, the First Minister announced that it was Welsh Government policy to set a national default 20mph limit for residential areas in Wales. The Senedd has now approved these changes with the legislation coming into effect in September 2023.

In preparation for this national change to the default speed limit, the Council has been evaluating the highway network and identifying the signs and road markings which will need to be changed. This has been undertaken using a tool developed by Transport for Wales specifically for this purpose. It has been identified that most roads within Cardiff are residential roads and, therefore, will default to a 20mph speed limit when the national change takes place. However, a few roads that are major routes into the city will remain at 30mph. A full statutory public consultation will be undertaken on these routes and Members will be consulted as part of this process.

When the default speed limit across Wales changes, existing 20mph signage and road markings will have to be removed. Instead, the parts of the road network that will remain at 30mph will have new 30mph repeater signs installed. Where there is street lighting on a road, with no speed limit signs, drivers should assume that the speed limit is 20mph. When the Traffic Regulation Orders have been sealed, the new speed limits will be enforced by GoSafe, the body responsible for speed enforcement in Wales.

W49

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Rumours are rife Cardiff Council are considering extending segregated cycle lanes through Rumney and Old St Mellons on Newport Road. This would likely mean the scrapping of parking provision for residents and the loss of a lane of traffic, creating additional congestion in outer-City communities. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what plans the Council is exploring regarding the extension of segregated cycle lanes on Newport Road?

Reply

The Council is working with Transport for Wales, the Burns Delivery Unit and Newport City Council to assess the feasibility of a sustainable transport corridor between Newport and Cardiff. The Welsh Government also undertook a consultation exercise earlier this year, which sought views on options to improve active travel and bus routes specifically on the A48 and National Cycle Network Route 88 (NCN88) between Cardiff and Newport. Further information can be found at: <https://gov.wales/cardiff-newport-travel-corridors> To achieve the 'gold standard', bus lanes in either direction and a fully segregated cycleway would be required. It is very likely that the installation of this scheme will require significant reallocation of road space, resulting in a reduction in car traffic capacity in favour of public transport and active travel.

At present, the Council's Transport Team is concentrating on the route section from Dumfries Place-Newport Road-Broadway-Newport Road-Rumney Hill where we aim to have bus lanes in each direction, where feasible, and a segregated cycleway. The options are being modelled with the aim of making the link and junctions as optimal as possible for all modes. In terms of timelines going forward, we are looking to finalise a preferred option in the first quarter of 2023 and then undertake a public consultation. Following on from that, detailed design work and further engagement will take place during 2023, with the aim of works on the first section commencing on site sometime in 2024, subject to consultation, feasibility and funding.

The second section from Rumney Hill through to Cypress Drive in St Mellons will require the reallocation of road space and there may be some loss of parking on one side of the road. The development stages of the scheme will look to limit the loss of parking as much as possible and/or mitigate this by enabling parking schemes. The detailed work to support this is likely to start from 2024/25 and is also subject to consultation, feasibility and funding.

W50

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD

What is the total cost of the canal quarter when completed?

What is the environmental impact?

Is there any off setting?

If so, how much will this also cost?

What benefit will it bring to the City?

What will be the cost to maintain it?

Has there been a risk assessment to prevent drowning?

Reply

- a. An estimate of the total cost of the entire Canal Quarter masterplan area has not been calculated; however, the current canal project works, which is opening up a section of the Dock Feeder canal on Churchill Way, is set to cost £4million.

- b. Overall, the scheme will have a positive environmental impact as it is essentially a large drainage system where all of the localised surface water will be channelled into the canal via a series of rain gardens. There will also be extensive planting of trees and greenery as part of the scheme.
- c. No
- d. Not applicable (see previous answer).
- e. The benefit to the surrounding area will be significant and it is hoped that the current works will act as the catalyst for further developments in the area that is in much need of investment. Improvements to the area around Queen Street station, Queen Street and Churchill Way will benefit both the city and the wider region.
- f. An initial maintenance period has been factored into the construction contract. An assessment of maintenance will then be undertaken before this period ends prior to the Council's own Assets Team taking over responsibility for maintenance.
- g. The potential risk of drowning has been considered as part of the design process and the following measures have been put in place, with further assessments to be carried out prior to opening the area to the public:
- 1,200mm high balustrading around all parts of the exposed canal, with access gates for maintenance to the lower rain gardens;
 - Fall arrest systems in the lower rain gardens for use by maintenance operatives;
 - Two escape ladders from the canal in case of someone falling/jumping in;
 - A safety grille at the southern end to stop anyone floating downstream; and
 - A waterfall feature at the northern end to deter trespassing.