

**CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL**  
***CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD***

**Item 10 – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS**

1. Leader Statement (Economic Development & Partnerships);
2. Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement
3. Corporate Services and Performance Statement
4. Environment Statement
5. Deputy Leader Statement, (Early Years, Children and Families)

**COUNCIL: 22 OCTOBER 2015**

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**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**MIPIM UK**

Representatives from Cardiff, along with our 350 square ft. model of the city, were present at this year's MIPIM UK – the UK's biggest property trade show. It was an opportunity to showcase the benefits of investing in Cardiff and engage in positive discussions with key figures from across the property sector. One of the City Council's four priorities is to create more and better paid jobs and attendance at MIPIM UK helps ensure that Cardiff- as a well networked and outward facing city- has the profile it needs to attract high quality inward investment. This is important for delivering a portfolio of high quality properties as well as attracting blue chip employers. The Cardiff stand also hosted investors, developers and construction companies from China, part of President Xi's delegation to the UK, which provided an opportunity to build on our existing relationship with our twin city of Xiamen.

**City Lab**

Earlier this week I attended CityLab 2015 in London, hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Aspen Institute and The Atlantic magazine. This is in recognition of the City Council's work to promote Cardiff as a world class capital city.

The event brought together city leaders and international experts to discuss the major challenges facing cities, learn about different approaches to responding to growth and city development, and to connect with a variety of individuals and organisations. It was an important opportunity to promote some of the excellent work happening in Cardiff, whilst learning from the experiences of others.

Amongst the speakers presenting at CityLab was Cardiff University's Professor John Shepherd. Professor Shepherd discussed the innovative application of data to develop public policy which delivers improved outcomes for citizens whilst also ensuring the more efficient allocation of public resources. The Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention, for instance, uses information gathered in A&E departments together with data provided by public service providers to drive violence prevention activity. Research has shown that the implementation of the data sharing approach in Cardiff led to savings in the city's health, social and criminal justice costs. The Council's Research Team have been instrumental in the analysis of the data which has been hailed as best practice both nationally and internationally.

## **Rugby World Cup**

Cardiff has hosted its final games of the 2015 Rugby World Cup and I would like to thank officers, residents and the people who visited the city from around the World for making it such a special couple of weeks.

With Cardiff Castle's "Ball in the Wall" being one of the most prominently featured promotional activities it ensured that the City enjoyed global exposure and excellent publicity. Over 534,000 tickets were sold for the Millennium Stadium for the Rugby World Cup and our official fanzone at the Arms Park has been the most well attended of any at the tournament, having welcomed over 150,000 visitors. There is little doubt that hosting the games has brought a significant amount of money into the city. City attractions, including Cardiff Castle, saw a substantial increase in visitor numbers with 10,000 more people visiting compared with the same period last year. Whilst our World Cup is now over, I think we can be proud of once again demonstrating our ability to host major events on the world stage. I hope our many visitors will be back to enjoy the city in the future.

## **Local Development Plan**

For the avoidance of any doubt, this administration fully supports the retention of the proposed Green Belt within Cardiff's Local Development Plan (LDP). Not only did this administration include the Green Belt proposal in the Plan, but it has consistently and robustly defended the designation throughout the LDP examination process.

The Council has provided a clear response to the Welsh Government Inspector, which is now seeking views on the merits, or otherwise, of a Green Wedge as opposed to a Green Belt. The Council has also re-affirmed its written and verbal evidence submitted to the examination process regarding this matter. Our evidence confirmed that the Council considers the Green Belt designation fully accords with Welsh Government guidance, as set out in Planning Policy Wales, and is not an issue which renders the Plan unsound. The Council therefore respectfully requested that the Inspectors take full account of the evidence submitted by the Council when deliberating on the retention, or otherwise, of the Green Belt within the Plan.

The Matters Arising Schedule relating to the LDP is now subject to a 6 week consultation, closing on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The Green Belt/Green Wedge will therefore be one of the topics for consultation, and the consultation documents makes clear that it is an Inspector-led request.

**Councillor Phil Bale**  
**Leader of City of Cardiff Council**  
21 October 2015

**COUNCIL: 22 OCTOBER 2015**

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**HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Update on position: Refugees**

Further progress has been made in preparing all required service inputs required for the smooth implementation of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons relocation scheme and the Afghan Resettlement scheme. The multi-agency regional Leadership Group met on 12<sup>th</sup> October and agreed the establishment of a housing-focussed task group to identify suitable properties in the private rented sector linked to consideration of appropriate support and education services. This will inform detailed discussions with the Home Office with the objective of providing sustainable placements as quickly as possible, supported by a process that will be fit for purpose over the period to 2020.

**Alarm Receiving Centre Visit**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September I visited the new Alarm Receiving Centre at Willcox House and was really impressed with what I saw. I would urge all colleagues to visit if you haven't already! This is a prime example of how the council can utilise the latest technology not only to save money, but also to open up income opportunities and I am very excited at the potential. Additionally, I met our very capable Telecare team who offer a vital service to our elderly and vulnerable citizens 24 hours a day 7 days per week.

**Delayed Transfers of Care**

A new Leadership Group has been established to oversee the partnership approach to reducing delayed transfers of care which I have found invaluable.

Timely transfer and discharge arrangements are important as delays lead to poor patient experience and increased operational pressures on the whole care system.

A comprehensive joint action plan has been put in place. Officers are working diligently with Health and the Vale of Glamorgan colleagues to ensure there is a responsive service in place.

We have used the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) to further enhance our Community Resource Team and the team is moving to 7 day working in preparation for the winter.

We are working hard to create more domiciliary care and nursing bed capacity but this still remains a challenge. We plan to host a provider event with Business Wales to facilitate a discussion and help stimulate the market place.

### **Housing Partnership Programme Update**

The procurement process for the Housing Partnership Project has now entered its final phase. This exciting project will deliver 1,500 energy efficient homes across Cardiff, 40% of which will be affordable.

### **Wales Audit Office Report on Supporting the Independence of Older People**

The recently released Wales Audit Office Report '*Support the Independence of Older People*' focuses on some key areas that can help to address the growing demands placed on local authorities, including the value of other services in sustaining the independence of older people; how the wider preventative services can help to prevent demand, and how we use data to support evidenced-based decision-making.

There is great pace of change within Adult Social Services in Cardiff and these changes are strongly aligned to the work in this paper, namely a new *Target Operating Model* and the *One Point of Contact* into the service. Additionally, future budgets will be built on a strong understanding of the potential consequences to people in Cardiff, supported by a robust performance management framework.

**Councillor Susan Elsmore**  
**Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Wellbeing**  
**21 October 2015**

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**CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT**

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**Employee Assistance Programme**

This administration places a strong emphasis on the health and well-being of all staff. We recognise our workforce as our most valuable asset, responsible for delivering valuable services across the city and its communities every day. We will therefore be launching an Employee Assistance Programme in November.

The Programme will provide all staff, including school staff, with access to a confidential telephone counselling and advice service. The service, which will include direct access to a wide range of professional advisors, will be available free of charge and accessible twenty four hours a day, seven-days a week. The Employee Assistance Programme has been secured through the all Wales National Procurement Framework, and will be delivered by Care First. Care First are an experienced provider with a proven track record of improving staff well-being, performance and attendance through active partnerships with Managers, Human Resources and Occupational Health professionals. This will complement, not replace, existing services such as the Employee Counselling Service.

**Customer Relationship Management**

Our Corporate Plan makes clear that the Council needs to change the way it delivers many services to ensure their long term sustainability. Internally, a 'One Council' approach is enabling more joined-up working between departments and is making services easier for residents to access. A key part of this approach involves the adoption of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) model that will improve customer services and drive down costs, with a focus on increased use of digital channels where appropriate. The technical sign off for phase 1 of the CRM will be completed this month, with Connect 2 Cardiff (C2C) being the first service area to adopt the approach.

**Collaboration in the Management of Health and Safety**

A service level agreement is currently being developed with Caerphilly Council for the management of the Health and Safety Advisory Service within the Council. The Agreement will result in financial savings for the Council, whilst offering further potential benefits in the management of health and safety services. This is another example of the City of Cardiff Council collaborating effectively with regional partners to drive down costs and improve the quality of services. The proposals have been fully consulted upon and are supported by

the Trade Unions. The Health and Safety Team will remain within the employment of Cardiff Council.

### **Budget Settlement Timetable**

Normally Local Authorities in Wales receive their Provisional Budget Settlement in October, followed by a Final Settlement in early December. This will change this year with the expected timescales for the Local Government Budget Settlement indicating that the Welsh Government will publish its Draft Budget on the 8 of December, with the provisional Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 announced on 9 December. The Final Settlement is then expected to be published by Welsh Government on the 2 March with approval of the Local Government Finance Report on 9 March.

The Council must, under the statutory requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set a balanced budget by 11 March. As a consequence, not only will the confirmation of the Council's funding for next year be extremely late, it's also likely to cover only one financial year. The timescales are therefore challenging, and are likely to place significant pressure on the Council's Budget Setting Process.

### **Members 'paper lite' project update**

Three new Dell tablets are now built and ready to be trialled as potential replacements for the existing Members tablets. Amongst the issues addressed with the new model are hardware reliability, speed of power on, password synchronisation issues and connecting to networks more seamlessly. The short pilot will be assessed against these 'success factors' with the aim of making a decision on potentially replacing all tablets if successful.

### **New Eastern High school**

ICT is working with the LEA, the Head teacher of Eastern High and Cardiff & Vale College to decide how the ICT systems for the new Eastern High school will operate and best support the learning outcomes of the pupils. The new school will be run by the LEA for years 7-11 and the sixth form will be run in partnership with Cardiff & Vale College.

Two additional secondary schools who have contracted their ICT services out to third parties have asked ICT to review their existing systems and infrastructure and to suggest an action plan to implement improvements.

### **Online Parking Permits**

Working together with our external providers – Chipside - the Council's new online parking permit system was launched this month. It allows the public to access and apply for parking permits on-line without the need for paper and postage, delivering a more convenient and cost effective service.

**Councillor Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member (Corporate Services & Performance)**

21 October 2015

**COUNCIL:**

**22 OCTOBER 2015**

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**ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Partnerships**

I am pleased to highlight an emerging project within the City Operations Directorate, centred on a partnership between the Council, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales. The project which has come about through the Volunteer Development Partnership Group formed earlier in the year is aimed at providing students studying at both establishments with work experience opportunities across a range of disciplines that include Civil & Environmental Engineering, Landscape Design and Management, Public Services/ Business Administration and Wildlife & Conservation Management. It is anticipated that a programme of opportunities which will provide benefits to those studying in specific fields, with potential benefits to the Council in terms of project work will be in place next month.

**Organic Waste Treatment Centre**

The City of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils are pleased to announce the start of the construction of an Organic Waste Treatment Centre. Construction has followed on from the planning and design process which included public consultation on the proposals in the local area. The ground breaking ceremony took place on the 6 October 2015 at its Tremorfa site where the new Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility will be housed. An Open Windrow Composting (OWC) facility will be located at Lamby Way, with construction there to commence in Spring 2016.

Cardiff and Vale Councils are working together with Kelda, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, EnCon Construction and Anaergia to develop some of the latest technology that will not only treat and recycle the organic waste but will also produce sustainable sources of energy and growing medium for arable farming. The site build will be completed in 2016 and will guarantee 97% of food delivered will be recycled. The green waste site build will be completed in 2016 and will guarantee the same 97% recycling rate.

The facility will allow Kelda to provide a high quality recycling service to the Councils and support the achievement of zero waste targets. This facility will also supply renewable energy to our partner, Welsh Water, for its Tremorfa site and sustainable fertiliser from both sites will be recycled to local agriculture, working to our group vision of "Taking responsibility for the water environment for good".



## **Cathays Chapel**

Cathays Chapel renovation crowd funding website set up on 19 September 2015 to raise around £39,000 to renovate the chapel. To date, over £25,700 has been raised.

## **Waste Changes**

I know the on-going recycling and waste changes have been a hot topic of debate over the last few months, as waste is always an emotive subject. I am pleased to be able to tell you as we reach the half way mark of the city wide changes the early data is showing promising results; comparing qtr 2 to last year's qtr 2 – green bag recycling tonnages are up 11% and food waste tonnages are up 15%. This is supported a 331% increase in green bag demand and a 120% increase in food liner demand.

So we can make recycling easier for residents, I have reintroduced the delivery sticker on the green bags. Now as residents come to the end of their green bag roll, they simply write on their address and a new roll will be delivered by the crews.

The public are adjusting well to the changes; we may have issued over 3500 warning notices, but less than 100 people have gone on to ignore the warning given. It is pleased to see the residents of Cardiff understanding and supporting the need to recycle more/”move out of the black and into the green”.

## **Cardiff Dogs Home: Good as gold!**

Congratulations to Cardiff Dogs Home has been presented with the RSPCA's Stray Dog Provision gold award at a ceremony at the Senedd. The award is part of the RSPCA's Community Animal Welfare Footprint scheme. City of Cardiff Council's Emergency Management Unit has received the Contingency planning bronze award at the same ceremony.

**Councillor Bob Derbyshire**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**  
**21 October 2015**

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**EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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I want to take this opportunity to update members on developments in Children's Services since my last statement to Council.

I am pleased to be able to say that further significant progress has been achieved supported by the Children's Service's Improvement Plan, the continued engagement of the Chief Executive, the ongoing involvement by the Director in the Challenge Forum and the work of the Organisational Development Programme.

**Operational Delivery**

The Director's close attention to operational safety and integrity over the last 2 years means that the service is in a much more stable and healthy condition. This is evidenced by

- sustained lower caseloads - down from 24.5 at 30.06.14 to 17.5 at 30.09.15
- stronger performance in key areas
  - Recording decisions on referrals  
77.6% in Q1 2014-15  
89.8% in Q1 2015-16  
94.1% in Q2 2015-16
  - Initial assessments  
34.6% in Q1 2014-15  
67.1% in Q1 2015-16  
91.7% in Q2 2015-16
  - Core assessments  
49.8% in Q1 2014-15  
71.2% in Q1 2015-16  
75.1% in Q2 2015-16
  - Initial CP conferences  
91.0% in Q1 2014-15  
96.4% in Q1 2015-16  
99.2% in Q2 2015-16
  - Care plans at start of BLA  
62.1% in Q1 2014-15  
67.0% in Q1 2015-16  
81.3% in Q2 2015-16

- Permanence plans
  - 80.4% in Q1 2014-15
  - 85.7% in Q1 2015-16
  - 96.6% in Q2 2015-16
  
- Looked after child reviews
  - 85.3% in Q1 2014-15
  - 93.2% in Q1 2015-16
  - 96.0% in Q2 2015-16
  
- Social work vacancies
  - 30.1% in Q1 2014-15
  - 23.5% in Q1 2015-16
  - 21.4% in Q2 2015-16
  
- a more stable recruitment and retention position with an increase in applications for social work posts from other authorities in the region and from agency staff. Agency staff are down from 55 in June 2014 to 30 in September 2015,

The Directorate recognises that there still remains much to do to improve performance further across a wider range of performance dimensions, particularly in terms of enhancing attainment by Looked after Children and in terms of strengthening the offer for disabled children.

This improvement work over the last year, consolidating the 2013-14 year, means that the service has been able to engage in key strategic developments and these include a sustainable and improving future for the service

### **Strategic Developments**

Prevention - the launch of the Early Help strategy led by the Cardiff Partnership Early Intervention and Prevention Steering Group. I addressed the launch which was attended by partner agencies pledging their commitment to working with children services to address. The strategy reflects a genuine partnership in which no one agency has primacy but in which all are committed to

- Reducing the number of children, young people and families requiring 'remedial' support or intervention.
- 'Narrowing the gap' so that children achieve their potential.

I was encouraged to see positive engagement from partner agencies at the launch of this strategy.

Refreshed Fostering Campaign - I know that Members will be particularly pleased to hear that a new fostering campaign was initiated in September with a focus to recruit more foster carers for children in Care. Our ambition is to bring those children back to Cardiff who had to be placed outside of Cardiff due to a lack of foster carers in Cardiff.

At the City of Cardiff Council we strive to keep children close to their families and communities wherever possible.

We need foster carers of every kind in Cardiff, but particularly:

- For teenagers,
- For disabled children and young people,
- For brothers and sisters – we keep families together if we can, and
- From black or ethnic minority groups or in a mixed ethnicity relationship.

Because of our foster carers, some of Cardiff's children face a brighter future and for this reason we are keen to recruit more carers.

I would encourage you all to have a look at our new fostering website and share it amongst your networks. The link to the website is <http://fostercarecardiff.co.uk/>

Organisational Development Programme - I would also want to highlight the accelerating agenda to remodel how we deliver children's social services. I will look forward to updating you on this and other developments such as the MASH and services for disabled children at the next cabinet.

I hope that this update on development reassures members that our improvement journey remains on course and continues to extend its reach.

**Councillor Sue Lent**

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member (Early Years, Children & Families)

21 October 2015