
FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership

The Council's work in promoting the real Living Wage has been recognised in a Welsh Government Case Study. The case study highlights how the Cardiff Living Wage City Partnership has driven the increase in accredited Living Wage employers in Cardiff from around 80 in 2019 employing 27,000 employees of whom 4,000 had received a pay rise to the real Living Wage to the position now where there are over 210 accredited employees, employing 75,000 people of whom over 13,000 have had a pay rise to the real Living Wage. Since 2012, an additional £65million has gone into the local economy. The case study can be read at: <https://www.gov.wales/cardiff-council-living-wage-case-study>

Local Broadband Fund – Improving Connectivity to Poorly Served Premises

Members may recall that in March 2022 the Council was awarded £7.7million from Welsh Government as part of the Local Broadband Fund. The funding was to be used to address connectivity issues in areas of the city which were not covered by roll-outs planned by the commercial operators. Without fast and reliable broadband, those premises would fall behind other parts of the city in being able to access the various services available online, many of which enable our citizens and businesses to grow.

Telcom, the Council's delivery partner, has now started work on the first phase of the project which will deliver fibre connectivity to 79 sites, both residential and commercial. The Council's approach is that premises identified as high on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) should be the first to be addressed.

Along with the significant improvements to broadband infrastructure, Telcom is also offering a Social Value Tariff, as well as local employment and training facilities through their Telcom's Engineering Bootcamp which is due to be launched to Cardiff residents this winter. More information can be found at: <https://recode.org.uk/courses/telecoms-bootcamp/>

Phase One is programmed for completion in January 2024.

Digital Leadership Board

In June 2023, the Welsh Local Government Association's Digital Leadership Board, which I am a member of on behalf of the WLGA, approved the establishment of a Digital Cabinet Members Network. The purpose of the network is to share information and facilitate discussion of key digital topics of interest amongst those cabinet members holding the digital portfolio in each council in Wales. I was pleased to be at the network's official launch, which was also attended by the Minister for Finance and Local Government Rebecca Evans MS, at the WLGA conference last week.

Digital Customer Services

Officers from the Council presented a case study on the work done on digital customer services at a fringe meeting I attended at the WLGA conference last week, highlighting in particular the success and work of Bobi the chatbot, the Cardiff.gov app, and the customer-focused approach we take to digitalising services. The presentation was well received by the attendees at the fringe meeting and so I'd like to thank the officers who presented and did an excellent job of highlighting the positive progress in this area over the last few years.

Councillor Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
21 September 2023