

COUNCIL, 30 NOVEMBER 2023 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CHAIR OF THE MEETING OF CABINET (AS TRUSTEE OF MAINDY PARK TRUST) ON 2 MARCH 2023
(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BROWN-RECKLESS</u></p> <p>Please could an update be given about the application to the Charity Commission regarding the proposed land swap at Maindy, including whether the Charity Commission have given any informal indications or suggestions about the application?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Charity Commission has requested further information relating to the Charity and the proposed exchange of land arising from the application. Officers are currently working through those enquiries with a view to providing responses over the forthcoming weeks.</p>
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CLIMATE CHANGE
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Once the current strike by Unite is concluded, what additional resources will the Council provide to quickly clear the backlog in garden waste, some of which has been waiting to be collected for months?</p> <p>Will we need to request assistance from neighbouring Councils to help clear the backlog?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Following the end of the strike action on 26th November, the service has re-established collection services for residual, food, recycling, hygiene and garden waste.</p>
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	<p>Garden waste collections have restarted this week and will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis, with the aim of clearing the backlog by Christmas. Any additional garden waste that is presented next to the bin or sack cannot be collected as this could add significant time to daily collections, thereby affecting our ability to ensure that every household receives a garden waste collection. In addition, residents can continue to bring any excess garden waste to the recycling centres at Bessemer Close or Lamby Way.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that assistance will be required from neighbouring local authorities, and it is also very unlikely that they would have any available resources to support us.</p>
W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>While garden waste sacks are available at hubs and recycling of garden waste is still possible at recycling centres, this is often of little help to elderly or disabled residents who are unable to travel to the recycling centres and rely on garden waste being collected from their homes. While industrial action is continuing, and while garden waste has not been collected for an extended period, can further thought be given to the collection of garden waste from residents who are eligible for an assisted lift?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Following the end of the strike action on 26th November, the service has re-established collection services for residual, food, recycling, hygiene and garden waste. Garden waste collections have restarted this week and will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis, with the aim of clearing the backlog by Christmas. Any additional garden waste that is presented next to the bin or sack cannot be collected as this could add significant time to daily collections, thereby affecting our ability to ensure that every household receives a garden waste collection, including those requiring assisted lifts.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>When will the council remove the remains of bonfires?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Waste Enforcement and Fly Tipping Clearance teams ensured the removal of all remains of bonfires within five working days on the adopted highway.</p>

	<p>Bryn Celyn in the Pentwyn ward was subject to multiple waste deposits before and after 5th November. The land in question falls under the responsibility of the Council's Housing Service, and Waste Enforcement and Clearance teams have been working in conjunction with Housing teams to remove the waste on site and have cleared the area on several occasions. As waste continues to be dumped at the location, Waste Enforcement officers are searching and removing all waste deposits and taking appropriate action where evidence has been gathered.</p>
W5	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY</u></p> <p>I have been told twice in the last 12 months, or more, that new bins will be placed on new bus stops along Llantrisant Road up to the Cardiff border with RCT. When will they be installed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers are aware that litter bins are required at the bus stops along Llantrisant Road and are in the process of ordering bins for future installation. The service usually only provides bins once the roads are adopted and come under the ownership of the Council in terms of future maintenance; however, in this instance, the service will install bins in areas that have yet to be adopted. The manufacture and delivery of the bins will take about 16 weeks and, once received, officers will prioritise Llantrisant Road for the fitting of the bins.</p>
W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What are the identified flooding, surface water and drainage failures in Gabalfa?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Flood risk modelling and related mapping of areas in Wales is publicly available on the Natural Resources Wales website. The Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management team also undertakes flood incident investigations following reports of flooding by stakeholders, councillors and residents. Currently, the only location awaiting further investigation within the Gabalfa ward is at the junction of Crown Way and Whitchurch Road. As a result of these investigations, should any surveys or remedial works be required, then these will be scheduled subject to available funding; otherwise, this location will be added to a proposed works list and any works will be undertaken once funding is made available.</p>

W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>What steps is the council taking to ensure that hygiene waste collections are not repeatedly missed owing to the ongoing dispute with Unite and what steps is the council taking to advise residents when hygiene waste collections will be made?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Hygiene waste collections have been taking place alongside residual waste collections during the strike action due to limited resources. The service is aware of some missed collections and, where concerns have been raised, it has removed the hygiene waste. As of Monday 27th November, hygiene waste collections have returned to fortnightly collections on the alternate week between residual waste collections. Further information on collections is available on the Council's website and the CardiffGov app.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>What action is the council taking to ensure assisted lift collections are not missed due to the ongoing dispute with Unite when waste collections are otherwise able to go ahead in a road in question where someone is registered for the assisted lift service?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Collections were modified for all households during the strike action, including assisted lift collections. All assisted lift collections are highlighted to the refuse collection vehicle drivers through in-cab technology; however, the service is aware of some missed collections and, where any such concerns have been raised, the service has returned to undertake the assisted lift collection.</p>
W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Drains on Clodien Avenue and surrounding streets frequently become blocked by leaves and litter, during heavy rain this inevitably leads to issues with water pooling. Can the council look at increasing the frequency or effectiveness of street sweeping to help prevent drainage issues such as this?</p>

Reply

Cardiff is a city with over a million trees and leaf clearance work across the city is very labour intensive. It is also weather dependent and difficult to plan the deployment of resources, particularly when we experience stormy conditions that affect the whole city.

Leaf clearance commenced at the start of October and teams have been working to clear leaves and keep highway drains clear. Cleansing Services undertake a two-week rota of leaf fall clearance, working in areas that have been identified as needing attention due to the presence of trees on the highway. Further information on leaf clearance in the city can be found on the Council's website at: [Clearing fallen leaves \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](http://cardiff.gov.uk/clearing-fallen-leaves)

Areas where properties are at risk of flooding or have flooded in the past are cleansed weekly and additional cleansing takes place in these locations prior to any inclement weather to ensure that highway drains are free from obstruction. The Council is also very grateful to the many residents who undertake work themselves, as long as it is safe to do so, to clear drains and gullies outside or near their homes in order to help protect their property and community from any localised flooding.

Clodien Avenue has not been identified as an area where properties are at risk of flooding and, therefore, it will be scheduled for cleansing as part of the two-week rota when leaves are present in the street.

W10

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

With recent flooding in our ward, what preventative measures are put in place to make sure all gullies are clear before winter?

Reply

The recent inclement weather led to some incidents of flooding of the local highway network. Where roads are flooded, Cleansing Services work closely with colleagues from Highways to remove any concerns within 24 hours, with priority being given to those areas where properties are at risk of flooding. However, some issues relate to the capacity of main carrier drains and water will only dissipate once the drains are able to take more water.

	<p>There are approximately 90,000 gullies on the highway network in Cardiff and, therefore, it is not feasible to cleanse every gully each year with the resources available. Highways proactively cleanse gullies and drains throughout the year and will work to remove any blockages. Areas where properties are at risk of flooding or have flooded in the past are cleansed weekly and additional cleansing takes place in these locations prior to any inclement weather to ensure that highway drains are free from obstruction.</p> <p>Any identified gully blockages can be reported via the Council's website or the CardiffGov app.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LATIF</u></p> <p>Why council has failed negotiations with union, how long Cardiff residents will have to suffer with poor hygiene conditions?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The balloted strike action by Unite in Cardiff related to the national pay award for 2023/24, which was settled between the national employers and GMB and Unison on 1st November 2023. Despite this national agreement, Unite continued their strike action in Cardiff until 26th November 2023. Cabinet Members and council officers have met with and spoken to Unite representatives on numerous occasions since the start of the strike action in an effort to resolve the situation.</p> <p>The Council recognises that the strike action has impacted on waste collection and other cleansing services, but the service changes were limited. Whilst garden waste was not collected during the period of strike action, recycling was collected every two weeks as opposed to weekly, and hygiene waste was collected with residual waste. As a result, this should not have led to poor hygiene conditions for Cardiff residents.</p>
W12	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LATIF</u></p> <p>Many residents have raised this question, that throughout Cardiff, roads are flooded, simply because of drains are covered with leaves. When will Council be able to start cleaning up the Cardiff roads?</p>

Reply

Cardiff is a city with over a million trees and leaf clearance work across the city is very labour intensive. It is also weather dependent and difficult to plan the deployment of resources, particularly when we experience stormy conditions that affect the whole city.

Leaf clearance commenced at the start of October and teams have been working to clear leaves and keep highway drains clear. Cleansing Services undertake a two-week rota of leaf fall clearance, working in areas that have been identified as needing attention due to the presence of trees on the highway. Further information on leaf clearance in the city can be found on the Council's website at: [Clearing fallen leaves \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](http://cardiff.gov.uk/clearing-fallen-leaves)

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The Council is also very grateful to the many residents who undertake work themselves, as long as it is safe to do so, to clear drains and gullies outside or near their homes in order to help protect their property and community from any localised flooding.

W13

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update to Members on next steps after recent criminal convictions following a corruption scandal at Cardiff Council?

Reply

An investigation into fraud in our waste department, dating back to 2017, has seen five men found guilty of offences under the Bribery Act and one found not guilty.

Four people pleaded guilty at a Plea and Case Management Hearing in June 2022 and two people pleaded not guilty. Following a trial that ended on 3rd August 2023, which was held at Swansea Nightingale Court, a further person was found guilty and one other person was found not guilty.

	<p>This was a serious fraud, which saw council employees who no longer work for the Council, and an agency worker, conspire with an external client for personal gain and to defraud the Council. Now that the court case is over and reporting restrictions have ended, I can confirm that the Council alerted the police and we have done everything that we could to aid the investigation.</p> <p>Internal controls in this area have already been strengthened and we will also now carry out a post-trial review, which will be led by the Council's Section 151 Officer (Corporate Director – Resources). Any outcomes and recommendations, which might further enhance our process for tackling fraud, will be reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee and acted upon.</p>
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CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS
(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE)

W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>How much is the a) capital budget b) repair budget for playgrounds in Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>a) The capital budget varies from financial year to financial year and, in 2023/24, the allocation is £490,000.</p> <p>b) The repair and maintenance budget for playground management is £152,210. This budget supports 175 play areas with fixed equipment and safety surfacing, 32 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), 8 fitness trails, 2 BMX tracks and 9 skate parks.</p>
W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Can the Council have an update on the remediation of Drovers Way Park in Radyr with a window for completion?</p>

Reply

Works are being implemented at pace and the contractor is slightly ahead of programme. There have been significant changes in recent weeks, with the base rubber core, paving and items of equipment now in situ. The drainage improvements that were undertaken prior to installation of the new play area are also functioning well having been tested during the recent periods of heavy rainfall.

The pouring of safety surfacing is weather dependant and needs to be undertaken during dry conditions. Once this element has been completed, a safety inspection will be carried out to ensure compliance with the relevant industry standards.

Subject to weather/ground conditions, I anticipate works being completed and the play area opening in January; however, there is a possibility of the opening taking place before Christmas, if weather/ground conditions are favourable.

Officers will continue to keep you updated on progress.

W16

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Can the council confirm that the decision to require permits/licences for fishing in Roath Park Lake is now in operation?

If so, what arrangements are in place to monitor that this is being complied with?

Reply

Officers are in regular dialogue with Glamorgan Anglers, who have a track record of monitoring fishing activity through rivers in South Wales, and they are very interested in including Roath Park Lake as part of their Bailiff remit. The club is also keen to promote fishing and to pursue investment in introducing competitions and improving infrastructure, including fishing pegs, so that activity can be better monitored and developed professionally. Officers are in the process of developing a licence to operate and I will arrange for officers to update local ward members early in the New Year.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

What update is there on the idea of four new large, designated parks around the north west and northerly border of Cardiff, as suggested to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events by a resident and Plaid Cymru member?

Reply

I am aware of the proposal, which has merit. I also understand the important role that parks and green spaces play within our local communities and recognise the wide range of benefits that can be derived from them.

It is important to note that, as part of the strategic sites being delivered through the adopted Local Development Plan, there is already a strong policy commitment by the Council to provide green infrastructure in the city, including new public open spaces and allotments. By way of example, the Plasdŵr development in the north-west of the city will comprise around 40% green space and has a valid planning permission that secures the following:

- 21.0 hectares of formal recreation, comprising 19.2 hectares of sports pitches
- Children's equipped play space – 3 playgrounds (in addition to the 4 approved subject to s106 as part of other applications across the strategic site)
- 2 destination play areas
- 2 teen facilities
- 30.7 hectares of natural, semi natural and informal open space including attenuation areas
- 56.3 hectares of existing woodland
- 1.25 hectares of allotments, comprising 140 allotment plots of varying sizes over 3 separate areas.

Similar obligations have been secured as part of other large new housing developments on strategic sites in the north of the city, including the St Edeyrn's development, North East Cardiff and Land North of Junction 33 of the M4 motorway.

Whilst these areas are being delivered in phases by private developers, the open spaces will be accessible and available for public use. At a time of significant budget constraints, parks and green spaces that form part of developments are the most realistic catalysts for provision.

W18

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

Will the council work with allotment users to improve access to water at Flaxland Allotments?

Reply

In March 2022, the Cabinet approved an updated Allotment Strategy for the city, which was developed with a core group of stakeholder representatives and informed by consultation with allotment tenants that was undertaken in autumn 2021. One of the objectives of the strategy is to reduce the consumption of, and reliance on, mains water supplies and other scarce resources and officers are working with site associations to achieve this aim. I would be more than happy for officers to meet with representatives from the Flaxland site to discuss this matter.

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W19

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Can the Cabinet Member for Education outline her personal views on self-ID and the steps Cardiff Council are taking to protect women and girls and preserve the integrity of female-only spaces?

Reply

The subject of 'relationships and identity' forms a key learning strand within the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Code published by the Welsh Government in support of the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales. The curriculum content covered by RSE must be inclusive and reflect diversity. It must also include learning that develops awareness and understanding of different identities, views and values and a diversity of relationships, gender and sexuality, including LGBTQ+ lives.

Guidance for schools and local authorities on the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2023-24, which will take place in January 2024, was also published last month by the Welsh Government and includes a new Sex data classification and the removal of the Gender data item. In addition, the Gender Mix data item has been replaced with Sex Mix to ensure accuracy in capturing, matching and transferring data.

	<p>From 2 October 2023, schools' management information systems will collect data on whether someone is male or female under the Sex data item following consideration of the recording and collection of an individual's sex as recorded on birth certificates or gender recognition certificates. The Welsh Government has also provided the option for schools to record gender identity (should the learner wish) in a standardised format; however, the Welsh Government will not collect this data.</p> <p>With regard to female-only spaces within new build secondary schools in Cardiff, all toilet cubicles are individual and are designed to provide complete privacy for each user. This is in accordance with the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1998, which states that toilets for pupils over the age of 11 years should be separate. Schools are able to designate toilets as male and female as they see fit, according to their pupils' needs and any particular concerns raised by pupils and parents.</p>
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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Following implementation of the new members' enquiry system, can the council provide data on the average number of days currently being taken to respond to members' enquiries?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A total of 1,919 member enquiries have been logged between the implementation of the new member enquiry system on 16 August and 24 November 2023. The average number of days taken to close member enquiries was 10.55 days.</p>
W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>In 2022/23 how many times did the council use debt collection companies on residents due to unpaid council tax, rent or other council charges?</p>

Reply

The Council uses three external Enforcement Agent companies to compliment an in-house team of Enforcement Agents to collect debts that are subject to a liability order or warrant.

All external Enforcement Agent companies and internal Enforcement Agents are bound by the Taking Control of Goods Regulations 2013, the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and the Council Tax Protocol for Wales, which is supported by the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association. All external Enforcement Agent companies are Enforcement Conduct Board accredited.

The Taking Control of Goods Regulations 2013 came into force in England and Wales in April 2007 to ensure a consistency of approach was adopted in respect of the recovery of debts and fines. All Enforcement Agent companies and internal Enforcement Agents must comply with the Regulations. All Enforcement Agents are also required to be certificated by the Court. The certification process is renewed every three years ensuring that high standards are maintained.

The three companies used by the Council to recover outstanding Council Tax, Business Rates and Parking & Moving Traffic offences are all members of the Civil Enforcement Association (CIVEA). All CIVEA members have signed up to the organisation's code of practice and are audited every 12 months to ensure continued compliance and that standards are upheld.

During 2022/23, 6,133 Council Tax cases, 7,719 parking warrants and 578 Business Rates cases were passed to external Enforcement Agent companies. These figures reflect both multiple debts for individuals and businesses, as well as repeat offences by the same individual and businesses.

In terms of housing rent, the Council's Housing Service does not use external Enforcement Agent companies for debt collection and seeks to work with council housing tenants to support them in paying their rent.

W22

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Is it correct that the council requires those engaged as agency staff within the council's waste service to have worked in that manner for two years before they can be considered for being taken on as permanent employees, and does the council have any plans to review this?

Reply

The Council's Fair Work (Long Term Agency Worker) Policy was approved by the Cabinet in July 2022. This sets out provisions of an automatic offer of a permanent contract to an agency worker undertaking the same or similar role for four years (in line with the Council's policy and legal requirement for its own temporary contract employees). After two years in the same or similar role, an agency worker is automatically offered a temporary contract and a further offer of a permanent contract after another two years. Agency workers can also, at any time, apply for jobs via the Council's website, which advertises all vacancies within the Council.

There is nothing that prevents someone who started work via an agency working for the Council on a temporary or permanent contract earlier than the two years. The policy introduced limits to guarantee it could not be longer. Prior to us introducing these limits, there was no Council policy to guarantee an offer of a Council contract to agency workers, regardless of how long they had worked for us.

The Fair Work (Long Term Agency Worker) Policy has been reviewed and discussions are taking place with trade unions regarding potential changes to the policy, which would improve existing provisions for agency workers engaged by the Council.

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

The Welsh Government have announced plans for council tax reform in Wales. Media reports highlight Cardiff residents will likely lose out under any of the proposed reforms and see their council tax bills rise. Will the Council be providing a formal response to the Welsh Government's consultation and if so, provide a summary of the response?

Reply

The Welsh Government consultation on 'A Fairer Council Tax: phase 2', was launched on 14th November 2023 and responses are invited by 6th February 2024. The potential impact on Cardiff residents will vary depending on which of the three models proposed by the Welsh Government are taken forward following the consultation. I can confirm that the consultation document and related proposals will be carefully considered by the Council and a formal response submitted in due course to the Welsh Government.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W24

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY

How many empty properties are there in Cardiff as of 09.11.2023?

Reply

As of 9th November 2023, Council Tax records showed that there were 2,998 domestic properties in Cardiff that were classified as unoccupied and unfurnished. This equates to 1.8% of the total number of chargeable dwellings in Cardiff.

Of these, the number of private sector 'empty homes' in Cardiff according to the Welsh Government definition (i.e. those properties liable for Council Tax that have been unoccupied for a period of six months or more) was 1,336, which equates to 0.8% of the total number of chargeable dwellings in Cardiff.

The Welsh Government definition of empty homes excludes:

- Second or holiday homes.
- Properties owned by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs); police and armed forces; National Health Service; universities and colleges; local authorities and government; Crown Estate, and churches and other religious bodies.
- Properties that are purpose-built for use as student accommodation.
- Properties that are in use, but for non-residential purposes.
- Properties that have been unbanded by the Valuation Office Agency.

In terms of the Council's own housing stock, as of 11th November 2023 (the nearest report date to 9th November), there were 182 void or empty council housing properties (excluding temporary accommodation). This equates to just 1.31% of the total council owned housing stock of 13,882 properties.

W25

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

How is the Council working with South Wales Police to make the city centre a no-go-area for anti-Semitism, especially given recent hateful elements present in pro-Palestinian protests there?

Reply

The Council works closely with South Wales Police on making the city centre a safe place for all residents, irrespective of background. Officers meet weekly with colleagues from South Wales Police to discuss community tensions and consider hate crime data trends and incidents over time, as well as considering in detail the position in communities and in the city centre.

Current data does not indicate a significant rise in anti-Semitic hate crime in the city centre specifically. The Council is aware of a small number of incidents in the city centre during the past two months and has worked with South Wales Police in response to these.

The Council has worked with South Wales Police to ensure that recent demonstrations in the city centre were peaceful and legal. We have been made aware of a recent protest in Cardiff that included the display of anti-Semitic narratives, which is totally unacceptable. This is currently being investigated by South Wales Police. Any form of racism, discrimination and hate crime that is displayed in protests, marches and demonstrations in Cardiff will be challenged and effective action taken with our South Wales Police partners as part of a zero-tolerance approach.

The Council has a team of City Centre Wardens who are present in the city centre throughout the week providing a visible presence and reassurance to residents and visitors. Any activity they see which relates to criminal activity, including hate crime, is escalated immediately to South Wales Police for response.

Across Cardiff as a whole, the Council is aware that there has been a rise in anti-Semitic hate crime over the past year, from no incidents in 2022/23 to 15 incidents so far in 2023/24. Whilst the number of incidents remains relatively low, this rise is a concern and is being monitored closely in partnership with South Wales Police.

In response, South Wales Police has established enhanced contact with local synagogues and with national organisations, such as the Community Security Trust, to ensure that any incidents or concerns are reported promptly.

The Council and its partners continue to support cohesive communities within the city, where those from different backgrounds can share positive relationships, feel safe within their neighbourhoods, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values. We are committed to working in partnership with statutory, third sector, faith, and community partners to enhance community cohesion, counter and reduce all types of hate crime in Cardiff, including raising awareness of the support that is available to victims.

As part of this work, patterns of hate crime in the city are examined in depth and a wide range of partnership-focused projects continue to be delivered. For example, a series of events that bring people together under meaningful contact, such as work with the Jo Cox Foundation on Great Get Together events and the prompt removal, investigation and mapping of hate related graffiti in Cardiff.

W26

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

When will work begin on the Maelfa independent living accommodation in Llanedeyrn?

Reply

Following the administration of Jehu Project Services Ltd who were initially delivering the project, the Council has worked to appoint a new contractor to recommence works as quickly as possible.

We are at the final stages of contract negotiations with the new contractor, Wates, regarding contract sums and restart dates. We are working towards finalising the new contract figure and programme before year end and are hopeful of a restart date early in the New Year.

Once we have a firm position, I will ensure that ward councillors and residents are provided with an update on this matter. In the meantime, the vacant site is being inspected regularly.

W27

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

What processes are in place to determine where serious convicted sexual offenders are re-housed (in Cardiff) following custodial sentences and how many convicted sexual offenders are housed in council properties?

Reply

I would refer you to the answer that I provided in reply to your similar Written Question back in March 2022 as set out below:

- Homelessness (Housing Act Wales 2014) – Local Authorities have a duty to review homelessness in their area, develop a strategy to prevent homelessness and provide help for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Allocations (Common Exclusion Policy) – anyone applying for accommodation in Cardiff who has a criminal offence is subject to the Common Exclusion Policy. This may result in exclusion from the housing waiting list.
- MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) – the Council has a duty to cooperate with MAPPA by virtue of section 325(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998. The Council works with MAPPA in our area to help to reduce the re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders in order to protect the public, including previous victims, from serious harm.

The Council has nearly 14,000 tenants and, like any other part of the community, a small proportion of these individuals will have a criminal conviction; however, we do not retain information on all tenants or members of their households who have a criminal conviction. We can only collect and hold data that's proportionate and where there is a lawful basis for it.

LEADER

(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>On what dates and for how long did a) the Council Leader and b) the Cabinet Member meet trade unions to negotiate or discuss the cleansing workers dispute?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Since 4th September 2023, I have attended the following meetings with trade union representatives to discuss the industrial action by Unite trade union members in Cardiff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14th September 2023 – meeting between Unite and WLGA representatives at the WLGA Annual Conference.• 16th October 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting.• 18th October 2023 – meeting with Unite representatives, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance, and Corporate Directors for People & Communities and Resources.• 20th November 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting. <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance also attended the above meetings on 16th & 18th October and 20th November.</p> <p>Numerous discussions have also taken place outside of formal meetings with various Unite representatives in order to attempt to bring the dispute to an end. This includes multiple phone calls I have had with Unite officials, and informal conversations with striking workers.</p>
W29	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Will the Council publish full answers to written questions to allow information to be accessed by the public instead of giving links as answers, forcing people to carry out their own research and not allowing elected members to give written copies of real answers to questions to constituents?</p>

Reply

I don't agree with the premise of your question. As I recall, you were provided with answers to two of your Written Questions by the relevant Cabinet Member and have been advised that the Council does not hold the information that you requested.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Since the onset of Unite's current dispute with the council, please detail all occasions when council officers and/or members of the administration have met with representatives of the Union to discuss ways in which the dispute might be resolved?

Reply

Meetings took place on the dates set out below; however, numerous discussions have also taken place outside of formal meetings with various Unite representatives in order to attempt to bring the dispute to an end.

- 14th September 2023 – meeting between Unite and WLGA representatives including Cardiff Council, at the WLGA Annual Conference
- 16th October 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting
- 18th October 2023 – meeting between Unite representatives, Cabinet Members and council officers
- 9th November 2023 – meeting between Unite representatives and council officers
- 20th November 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting
- 24th November 2023 – meeting between Unite representatives and council officers

Numerous discussions have also taken place outside of formal meetings with various Unite representatives in order to attempt to bring the dispute to an end, including multiple phone calls with Unite officials and informal conversations with striking workers.

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

W31

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

How are neurodivergent adults and/or their children treated differently in difficult situations faced in housing or social services settings?

Reply

Following the motion passed by Council in September 2023, which recognised the challenges that neurodiverse people face in our communities and workplaces, work is taking place to increase awareness and empathy across the city. This includes plans to engage with neurodiverse people to develop a city-wide vision, strategy and action plan that will work towards making Cardiff a place where neurodiverse people are supported to live well.

A number of council services provide support to neurodivergent residents in Cardiff, including Adult Services, Children's Services and our Housing Service. For example, within the Adults, Housing and Communities Directorate, Early Help Teams support families and their children to provide additional guidance, advice and support to meet their needs. The Index, which is managed by the Early Help team, is our voluntary register for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. Those registered, receive the Index e-news, which provides information about local services, activities and events specifically to meet the needs of these children and young people.

Family Help Disability Advisors, the Cardiff Parenting team, Flying Start Inclusion team and the Assisted Places Scheme (that sits within the Childcare Offer) are neurodiversity informed. The teams provide dedicated support for families and children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway and those with a confirmed diagnosis. An assessment of need is carried out and the teams will either provide short-term interventions or refer to more specialist services if required. Practitioners and Flying Start officers are fully trained in the principles of inclusive practice and child development. They will support a child and their family to ensure that they successfully transition into new childcare/ nursery education settings and ensure that these settings meet the needs and appropriate progression of the child. Additional funding is also available for childcare settings who may require training, specialist equipment and, where deemed necessary, additional staffing for children who could not safely attend childcare without this support.

Adult Services

Adult Services staff will meet with the individual and their family member or advocate (if applicable) in a place where they feel most comfortable and the environment is most suitable for their individual sensory needs. This may be home or may be in another service's premises. The assessments generally take place over several visits to ensure that the individual is not overloaded and to ensure that we understand their particular processing and communication needs.

The basis of the work that is undertaken focuses on developing positive consistent relationships with individual workers who work with the individuals to determine what adjustments would be helpful to ensure that they are supported to access and engage in the assessment process. This includes consideration of how they wish to give and receive communication, as well as their preferences regarding their physical environment. This puts the individual at the centre of our assessments and helps to better identify what care and support is needed.

Housing Advice and Specialist Housing Support

The Housing Advice Service has recently expanded the locations at which advice on homelessness prevention is provided to include Community Hubs across the city. Home visits can also be offered if required. Previously, such advice was only available over the telephone or at the Central Library Hub, which some customers (including neurodiverse people) found challenging due to the amount of information provided at appointments.

Individuals who require additional housing-related support are referred to the Floating Support team where their needs are fully assessed. A support worker is then provided, based on the requirement of the individual, and provides the right help and support to meet these needs.

For council tenants who are neurodivergent, tenancy officers ensure that all action plans are tailored for individual needs and tenants are given appropriate time to make decisions needed about their property or its' condition, with extra support on hand from the sustainment team if required. Home visits can be adapted and can include shorter visits with familiar officers if required and referrals into appropriate agencies can also be made for additional support if required.

Our Homelessness Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) is comprised of specialised clinicians and experts who are dedicated to assessing and addressing the unique challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals experiencing homelessness. The team consists of professionals with diverse specialisations, including; Social Workers (Mental Health and Adult Services), Community Psychiatric Nurse, Occupational Therapists (specialising in mental health), and Counsellors. Each member is highly trained and experienced in working with individuals with neurodiversity.

In cases requiring further neurodiversity assessments, the MDT Social Worker from Adult Services takes the lead and refers individuals to the neurodiversity Social Worker within their own service. In addition, Homelessness Outreach Workers have recently undergone extensive training in therapeutic interventions, enhancing their understanding of the specific needs of neurodiverse individuals. The Outreach Service works together with the Homelessness MDT and will involve their expertise at the earliest possible time. Our dedicated MDT for Young People has also been provided with funding so that they can access psychological assessments for neurodiverse young people that have been unable to obtain these through normal mainstream service routes.

Advice Services

The Into Work Advice Service frontline staff (Employment Mentors, Job Club Advisors, Adult Learning & Digital Trainers) have all completed Continued Professional Development raising awareness of support services that are available to their clients. The team hold regular Jobs Fairs, recruitment and engagement events across the city and recently introduced, a 'quiet hour' at the start of each event to support people with autism, which includes dimmed lighting and reduced noise by restricting the number of people during this period.

The team has been awarded funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to deliver a Supported Employment project, which supports individuals with learning disabilities or autism to move into sustainable employment. The project supports both people going into employment by providing a mentor to help prepare for work and secure employment opportunities, but also employers, by offering training to be able to support employees who are neurodivergent.

TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH (JOB SHARE)
(COUNCILLORS JULIE SANGANI & PETER BRADBURY)

W32	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Excluding advice given by the Welsh Government, what studies on covid vaccination or peer reviewed papers has the Cabinet member personally read to inform herself before encouraging staff to take the covid vaccination in the last 2 Council meetings?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I receive regular briefings and updates from both council officers and public health colleagues in relation to current vaccination programmes in the city, which is based on the latest clinical and scientific evidence and advice provided by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). As you will be aware, the JCVI is an independent expert advisory committee that advises UK health departments, including the Welsh Government, about immunisation and makes recommendations about vaccination schedules and vaccine safety, including the autumn Covid-19 booster vaccination programme. I also have a responsibility in my role as a Cabinet Member to work constructively in partnership with colleagues from the Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board to help convey and support public health messaging about Covid-19 and flu vaccinations to both eligible Cardiff residents and frontline social care staff employed by the Council.</p>
W33	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Can the council provide an update on the support available to residents (and how to access it) over the winter who may be struggling with heating their home and other impacts of the continuing cost of living crisis?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>With the continued rising cost-of-living and the pressures that come with the colder months, it is very important that support is in place for households across Cardiff that may be struggling. Our Advice Service continues to work hard to help those affected by the cost-of-living crisis, with support being provided across 26 different community locations in the city, including Hubs, foodbanks, supported accommodation settings and, most recently, at the University Hospital of Wales.</p>

Our Advice Service supports people by carrying out full benefit and financial health checks to ensure that each person is receiving what they are entitled to. The team is also able to assist by applying for grants and discounts, including the Warm Home Discount, Winter Fuel Payments and Discretionary Assistance Funds.

Warm Welcome Spaces are back in our Hubs and libraries for a second year because, sadly, people in the city are still struggling and are worried about the rising cost of energy. Our friendly teams are on hand to provide practical advice and hot refreshments to visitors at the Warm Spaces and everyone is welcome. More information about the Warm Welcome Spaces can be found at: www.cardiffhubs.co.uk

I am pleased to say that the Money Advice team is now a registered Fuel Bank Foundation partner and is able to access Emergency Fuel Vouchers for eligible customers. In addition, since April 2023, the team has issued over 1,000 foodbank vouchers.

The Advice Service is also working with Wales & West Utilities to provide 'Warm Packs' to vulnerable citizens and those who are struggling with heating costs. These packs will shortly be available in Hubs across the city.

Cost-of-living information leaflets have been updated for winter 2023 and contain information on the support that is available, including money saving tips, food help, help for pension age people, and information on grants and discounts. The leaflets have been translated into community languages and are available across our Hubs.

I urge anyone who is struggling with the cost-of-living to contact our expert advisors by phoning the Advice Line on 029 2087 1071 or visiting the Money Advice website (www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk) for more information about the support available and details of drop-in sessions throughout the city.

W34

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LATIF

I would like to ask regarding Islamophobia awareness month. can you please advise, what are the steps taken and programs arranged by Cardiff council since last November to eradicate this evil?

Reply

The Council published internal communications during Islamophobia Awareness Month to mark the first anniversary of the motion being passed unanimously by the Council in November 2022. This included the meaning of Islamophobia, how this affects individuals and communities and links to information about activities as part of Islamophobia Awareness Month. This year's theme is #MuslimStories and further details can be found at: <https://www.islamophobia-awareness.org>

Widespread hate crime awareness activities covering religiously motivated hate crime, including anti-Muslim hate, have been undertaken throughout the year. These have brought key partners and communities affected by hate crime together to tackle local hate crime issues and to raise awareness of support for victims of hate crime. Examples of some of the work undertaken by the Council and partners include:

- Co-ordinated partner-led activities to support the Welsh Government's anti-hate campaign, Hate Hurts Wales, as part of the annual National Hate Crime Awareness Week that is held in October each year.
- Internal staff awareness sessions delivered during October 2023, which covered all types of motivated hate crime (including religion and belief, such as anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic hate), as well as information on how to report it and the support that is available to victims.
- Bespoke Hate Crime Awareness training for elected members, which has been arranged to take place on 10 January 2024.

The Cardiff Race Equality Taskforce is currently progressing various actions that will complement work planned by the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) Equality Network and the Council's own Workforce Strategy 2023-27. This includes, for example, the roll-out of diverse recruitment panels, the piloting of a leadership and development programme, and the implementation of a reverse mentoring programme. This will encourage good practice and collaboration in relation to employment action to improve ethnic minority representation and progression within the local labour market. In addition, the Council's own Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training provision is currently being reviewed to ensure that it meets the requirements of the organisation and current best practice. This includes the launch this year of an Unconscious Bias training module that is available to all staff, as agreed in the motion and recommended by the Race Equality Taskforce.

A small community cohesion grant scheme to help build cohesive and resilient communities was launched in July 2023. Community groups and third sector organisations across Cardiff were invited to apply for funding to support schemes and initiatives that highlight and celebrate the diversity of communities across the city. The funding can be used for a range of purposes, including holding events and activities, producing supportive literature, or building capacity within a community. Approved projects this year will focus on meaningful intra-community contact.

The Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan will also provide a mechanism to deliver a number of actions to tackle racism through building cohesive and integrated communities and integrating relevant actions as part of the Council's own policies. In addition, the broader steps and programmes being implemented by the Council to implement the motion that was agreed last year will be supported by strengthened interfaith community cohesion and partnership working.

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING
(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

How much Section 106 funds – relating to transport or otherwise – are currently available to Radyr & Morganstown that have not already been allocated to specific projects, to which developments do they relate, and who is the developer in question?

Reply

The following Section 106 funds relating to community facilities (excluding all highways & transportation contributions that are already allocated to specific projects) remain available relating to Radyr & Morganstown:

	Application No.	Development Location	Developer	Summary of Section 106 wording	Balance at 31st March 2023
	16/02016/MJR	Land north and south of Llantrisant Road – Phase 1A (Part 1)	Redrow	For the purpose of providing community facilities in the local area of the development.	£31,477.15 <i>(£8,197.15 received & £23,280.00 invoiced, but not yet received)</i>
	18/01746/MJR	Land north and south of Llantrisant Road – Phase 1A (Part 2)	Redrow		
	18/01318/MJR	Land north and south of Llantrisant Road – Phase 1B	Bellway		
	17/03034/MJR	Land at De Clare Drive, Radyr	Taff Housing Association	Towards the Old Church Rooms and/or Morganstown Community Hall	£34,738.39
W36	<u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u>				
	Has the Council investigated procurement and use of The Multipatcher truck as part of its work to repair potholes in the county?				
	<u>Reply</u>				
	The Highway Assets team recently undertook a trial of the Velocity patching machine on a number of roads in Cardiff. The next step for council officers is to evaluate the output data and determine the actual cost per repair and how this compares to conventional repairs. The Velocity patcher is very similar to that of the Multipatcher process.				
W37	<u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u>				
	What metrics is the Council using to measure satisfaction with and the workability of the rollout of new cycling measures in Cardiff and how is it influencing that rollout?				

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Several cycling measures in the city have been completed and others are still under construction. These projects will be subject to post-opening Stage 3 Road Safety Audits and will be monitored via transport surveys. Public surveys on transport, such as the annual transport survey, will also be used to gauge public opinion on the implementation of these cycling measures.</p>
W38	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Work has been carried out to make the junction at the top of Colchester Avenue safer for pedestrians and significant work is currently under way at the junction of Cyncoed Road and Llanedeyrn Road. Can the council clarify: the purpose behind this latest project; whether local consultation is required for all significant works affecting the highway and, if so, whether there was any local consultation for this latest piece of work at the Cyncoed Road/Llanedeyrn Road junction?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>This scheme is funded by the Welsh Government's Active Travel grant and provides formal, single stage signalised crossings on each arm of the junction. Previously, pedestrians could only cross in two stages on the Llanedeyrn Road arm of the junction. The new facilities will be particularly beneficial to vulnerable road users, including children who attend Ysgol Bro Edern.</p> <p>Officers have checked the records relating to this scheme and, whilst materials were prepared for consultation with Penylan and Cyncoed ward councillors, these were not sent to you and colleagues due to what seems to have been an administrative error. I want to apologise for this oversight; however, I can confirm that consultation with residents did take place. Letters were sent to 107 properties and only five responses were received. Two of these were supportive and three included objections.</p>
W39	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>When will the council complete the removal of incorrect road signs now following the change of the default residential speed limit?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As has been advised previously in member briefings and replies to member correspondence, the Council is on course to finish all the contracted 20mph works by the end of December 2023. However, we are experiencing some vandalism of signage and may need to continue into early 2024 in order to address these particular issues.</p>
W40	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY</u></p> <p>What update is there on the extension of Adventure Travel’s 320 service into St Fagans National History Museum, six to seven weeks since the Cardiff Bus 32 service was axed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, have had discussions with Adventure Travel about the inclusion of additional bus stops in St Fagans as part of their existing number 320 bus service; however, the company is concerned that additional stops would add delays to an already time-pressured service with associated resourcing and scheduling impacts.</p> <p>More broadly, the Welsh Government is currently reviewing its funding support for bus services across Wales beyond April 2024. The Council understands that information on future bus funding will not be available until well into the New Year. When the new funding position is known, this will necessitate a review of all supported bus routes and we will include improved stops at St Fagans, along with other requests, within that review.</p>
W41	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What plans does the council have to improve pedestrian crossings and safety on North Road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Improvements to active travel, including pedestrian crossings, are planned and prioritised through the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM). North Road is included within the ATNM as a proposed walking and cycling route, and pedestrian improvements will therefore be considered as part of future transport schemes.</p>

	<p>Concept designs are currently being developed for a cycleway scheme at the southern end of North Road, which will include pedestrian improvements. Furthermore, a WelTAG study is currently being undertaken for the Northern Bus Corridor, which will consider improvements along the A470 and A469, including North Road and Whitchurch Road. Once proposals have been developed, they will be subject to consultation with local ward members and the public.</p>
W42	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What plans does the council have to improve walking routes and personal safety around the Gabalfa interchange and nearby subways?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>All the subways and footpaths through the Gabalfa Interchange are on the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) as proposed walking and cycling routes and, therefore, they are part of our plan to improve routes to ensure they are suitable for walking. The programme of works to deliver proposed routes on the ATNM is still subject to prioritisation and a timescale for completing walking improvements through the interchange is yet to be confirmed.</p>
W43	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>What steps is the council taking to encourage residents to catch the bus?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As you will be aware, future bus service provision in Cardiff is currently uncertain, with future Welsh Government funding arrangements yet to be announced. The Council has underlined to the Welsh Government the urgency of providing funding to support bus services in Cardiff, and we are continuing to work closely with colleagues in the Cardiff Capital Region and commercial bus operators to design a network that will be attractive to bus users and sustainable over the longer term. In addition, the Welsh Government, through Transport for Wales, is pursuing a national marketing campaign to encourage public transport use by both bus and rail.</p>

W44	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>Why was there no consultation with local members, or prior notification given, in relation to the ongoing road works at the junction of Cyncoed Road and Llanedeyrn Road, what is the overall purpose of those works and which organisation has instigated them?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I would refer to you to the reply provided to the earlier Written Questions (W38) by Councillor Hopkins.</p>
W45	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What can be done to reduce speed of cyclists entering and exiting underpasses at the Gabalfa interchange? There are concerns, particularly where there is limited visibility, of collisions with pedestrians occurring.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The south-west and north-east subways at the Gabalfa Interchange form an official “shared use” route across the interchange where cycling is permitted. However, cycling is not permitted through the other subways due to the lack of visibility around blind corners and steep approaches on the paths to the subways. These particular subways are clearly marked with “no cycling” signs at their entrances.</p>
W46	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>On what date will the replacement central bus station open?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The new Transport Interchange is the responsibility of Transport for Wales, who have advised the Council that the opening date will be in early 2024.</p>
W47	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Are there still plans to build a bus interchange at the University Hospital of Wales?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The existing proposal to introduce a public transport hub at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB) needed to install temporary Covid wards on the site, which are currently being retained in order to support essential hospital operations. The UHB still intends to progress the development of a public transport hub as part of future proposals to improve the UHW site.</p>
W48	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BROWN-RECKLESS</u></p> <p>In relation to the planned new GP surgery at Rhydlafer, please could it be explained what transport solutions are planned to enable Pentyrch residents (who are unable to drive, walk or cycle) to get to the new surgery, and how any planning conditions relating to transport and people travelling to or from the surgery will be satisfied?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As part of the redesign of Cardiff's bus network, which has been necessitated by the current uncertainty relating to bus funding provision in Wales, the Council is considering a number of options to improve bus links to Creigiau/Pentyrch, which take into account the relocation of the GP surgery to Rhydlafer.</p>
W49	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>Please can you confirm the Council's position on following Welsh Government legislation regarding cutting hedges and branches obstructing users of pavements?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council utilises provisions under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 whereby a notice can be served on landowners in situations where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a road or footpath causing an obstruction and/or interferes with the view of vehicle drivers. Related enforcement activities are exercised by the Council's Parks Service.</p>

W50

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

Can you confirm that all Council Vehicles are uploaded onto the Street School and restricted roads computer systems, to avoid staff working for the Council getting fines?

Reply

The Council does not provide exemptions for all council vehicles for any restriction. There are vehicles undertaking specific tasks that would be exempt in the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for certain schemes; however, where there is no exemption in place, it is expected that council staff driving council vehicles abide by the same restrictions as other motorists. For example, the statutory duty of collecting refuse is permitted in the TRO and, therefore, council vehicles undertaking these duties would be exempt. However, with schemes such as School Streets, refuse collection vehicles will try and avoid these streets during the restricted times to support the road safety aims of these schemes.

W51

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LATIF

Why council is refusing and making it so difficult to get disability parking spaces for elderly residents, including those who are diagnosed with chronic illnesses e.g. cancer patients?

Reply

The Council provides a free service to qualifying residents with a permanent special mobility need to obtain an on-street disabled parking place. The criteria associated with the approval of an on-street disabled bay is very specific and these can be found on the Council's website at: [Disabled person parking places \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](http://cardiff.gov.uk) Preparing and implementing these disabled parking spaces comes at a significant cost to the Council, even though it is free for applicants. The Council tries to deal with every application as quickly as possible; however, the process includes consultation with different bodies, the making of a Traffic Regulation Order and installation of road markings and signage, which means that it can take up to 18 months.

W52

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Improving roads and delivering effective transport links should be a priority for Cardiff Council. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the timescales for the delivery of improvements to the Eastern Bay Link Road (Rover Way) and confirm the improvements will include increasing road capacity from existing two lanes to four?

Reply

The Council undertook a Welsh Government funded Cardiff Eastern Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage 1 study, which recommended the re-alignment of Rover Way. Such a re-alignment could offer local development opportunities, improve active travel provision and crossing facilities, enhancing the efficiency, safety and reliability of the route.

The Welsh Government Roads Review concluded that schemes which increase road or junction capacity would not be supported. However, the Welsh Government accepted recommendations of the Roads Review Panel to support four schemes in South East Wales, including the Cardiff Eastern Transport Corridor scheme, subject to the road building tests being satisfied.

There is currently no Welsh Government commitment to fund the Cardiff Eastern Transport Corridor scheme. The Council is in the process of making an application to the Welsh Government for funding to undertake the next stages of the business case development for the scheme within the context of the Road Review Panel recommendations.

W53

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

It has now been over a year since I last requested an update on the planned crossing on Mill Road which I understand has been approved for over a decade. We have many primary ages children living to the west of Mill Road who are unable to walk to and from Llysfaen Primary school unsupervised as there is no safe way to cross Mill Road during the morning and evening rush hours. We also have a number attending Christ The King Primary School walking from the east side of Mill Road and many more walking from areas in Lisvane to Llanishen High needing to cross Mill Road. The lack of pavements across stretches of this road meaning crossing this road cannot be avoided for those choosing to walk to bus stops, train

station(s), village centre, woodland, parks and countryside. Having just attended a very informative active travel course in my role as school governor and witnessed first hand the passion and commitment of the Active Travel team. In support of the great work the team do it would be good to see this crossing finally installed. Could we have a timescale please?

Reply

Improvements to walking and cycling in Cardiff are planned and prioritised through the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), in line with the requirements of the Active Travel Act. The ATNM sets out a map of existing routes, which already meet Welsh Government standards for an active travel route, and proposed routes which will need improvements to bring them up to standard. Parts of Mill Road are designated within the ATNM as a future walking route (L-N3), which could potentially incorporate crossing facilities on Mill Road in the vicinity of Llysfaen Primary School. The programme of works to deliver proposed future routes on the ATNM is still subject to prioritisation and, unfortunately, I am unable to confirm a timescale at present for when any scheme may be brought forward.

W54

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

I wish to thank Dan De'Ath and his officers for replying to my enquiry regarding the Crystal Glen Permit Gate in Llanishen. I am still seeing a number Lisvane & Thornhill residents getting tickets when accessing what they believe to be legally the Crystal's area. I note the number of PCNs issued in October again exceeded 2,500 and whilst I appreciate there are full details of the scheme available online, given the number of tickets issued, there is a need to review the onsite signage to ensure it is clear. Can an urgent review be carried out please?

Reply

The Council will undertake a review of the signage for this scheme to identify if any immediate improvements could be made. This is an 18-month experimental scheme that is due to be fully reviewed in the New Year as it will be about halfway through the experimental period. Any additional improvements resulting from this review will be noted and actioned where appropriate.

W55	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Regarding the Crystal Glen Permit Gate, could I please have details of the number of tickets issued since inception and the number of successful appeals (giving reasons) for the same period?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has issued 10,342 Penalty Charge Notices at this location and received 3,187 appeals. To date, 1,975 appeals have been accepted and 41 have been rejected. Decisions are pending on the remaining appeals.</p>
W56	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>I understand from media that the default 20mph “bedding in period” is due to end soon. Could you provide the date in which it will officially come into force in Cardiff?</p> <p>Could the council please confirm that all fixed speed cameras and enforcement vehicles will be calibrated to the 20mph limit from this date?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has been advised that South Wales Police has resumed enforcement activity on roads that already had a 20mph speed limit prior to 17th September 2023 (i.e. when the default national 20mph speed limit came into force) and also on the ‘exception’ roads, namely those which had 30mph limits before 17th September and which have remained at 30mph.</p> <p>The ‘bedding in’ period is a 3-month period following the new legislation coming into force. Enforcement operations on the roads with new 20mph limits will commence following the end of this period, with enforcement activity likely to focus on those roads with higher levels of non-compliance.</p> <p>All enforcement cameras on roads where the speed limit has changed have been re-calibrated to reflect the new speed limit.</p>