

COUNCIL, 25 JANUARY 2024: 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 TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that, following the receipt of requests from the Charity Commission on September 15 and November 15 for further information in respect of the Council's request for the Maindy Park Trust land swap, the date or dates when the information was supplied by the Council and whether any of the information or requests are still outstanding?</p> <p>If so, when will this be provided to the Charity Commission?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Information was provided to the Council's external solicitors (acting for the Trust), who sent a partial reply to the Charity Commission on 27th November 2023. Some further information is being gathered from a number of council directorates and is expected to be provided to the Charity Commission in the coming weeks.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Does the administration still intend to proceed with the Maindy Park trust land swap proposals in light of the recent availability of the more suitable Companies House site?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council continues to respond to correspondence from the Charity Commission seeking additional information in connection with the application to swap land. The Council is also engaged with the Government Property Unit regarding the future of Companies House. Given the importance of delivering a new school for Cathays High, the Council is pursuing both strategies in tandem as there is no guarantee of acquiring the Companies House site.</p>

CLIMATE CHANGE
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W3

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
MELBOURNE

How much did the electric taxi scheme cost to Cardiff to put in place? We are aware it was funded by the Welsh Assembly at a cost of about 3.5 million.

A Freedom of Information Act query shows that it was run by Cardiff Council, so how much money was made by the scheme which ran for over 2 years?

Was it worth the taxpayers' money?

Are there plans to revive the scheme?

Reply

The circa £3.5million figure quoted in your question relates to an electric taxi scheme that was operated by the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), and any related questions about that particular scheme would need to be addressed with CCR officials.

The Council did operate a smaller trial scheme for electric taxis, which involved the purchase of five electric taxis to support an electric taxi lease service trial scheme for the local taxi trade. The taxis cost £233,000, which was fully funded by a Welsh Government Air Quality Grant. The Council was responsible for the management, inspection and maintenance costs of these vehicles, which totalled £25,735 per annum.

The trial scheme was not taken up by the trade and there are no immediate plans to revive it. Instead, the vehicles are now being used to reduce emissions and pollution in other public services.

The Council is committed to exploring ways to support taxi services in Cardiff to transition to zero emission vehicles and improve air quality in the city. The One Planet Cardiff Strategy acknowledges that to tackle the Climate Emergency we will need to do things differently and look at new ways to support change.

W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

The collection of garden waste is of particular concern to our elderly and disabled residents who are not able to use the council's recycling centres. During full council meetings in the autumn the cabinet member indicated that collection of garden waste would continue throughout the winter to compensate for the lack of collections during the period of industrial action. Notwithstanding the current period of continued action, is it the intention of the council to restart garden waste collections as soon as possible once the current action has finished and ahead of the usual start date of the month of March?

Reply

Two collection opportunities for every property were provided during the 4-week period leading up to Christmas. To date in 2023/24, the amount of garden waste that has been collected is 700 tonnes higher than at this time in 2022/23, which shows that there has been no detrimental impact in relation to residents having to store garden waste. The garden waste collection service is planned to recommence on Tuesday 2nd April 2024.

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

How much revenue does the Council estimate it will raise if it begins charging for garden waste collection as suggested in budget consultation documents?

Reply

This is currently part of the budget consultation. There could potentially be an income stream depending upon take up of the service. There could also be an associated saving from the reduction in the resources required to undertake the service. Further analysis of the overall finances of any change are still being undertaken, including research into other local authorities that charge for this service.

W6

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

Do the waste department keep a record of the recycling performance of each ward? Please list the performance of each ward best to worst.

If not, how do they know which areas to target, to improve recycling rates?

Reply

Performance data for each ward is not available due to how recycling is collected and recycled as a whole. The use of demographics can help to identify target areas for additional support; however, almost all residents can improve their recycling performance and reduce their carbon footprint by managing how they purchase goods and how they dispose of any materials. Segregated recycling will be delivered across the city in 2024 and will promote improved recycling behaviour. Interesting data was also published as part of our policy decisions around our new recycling strategy ([Recycling and waste strategy \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

W7

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

How many gully cleaners do the Council have in operation?

Is there a preventative programme in place to avoid unnecessary flooding due to blocked drains? If so, please provide it broken down into wards.

Reply

The Council's Highways Operations Team currently operates three gully cleansing vehicles. During extreme weather conditions, external contractors may also be engaged to support our operatives.

All highways within Cardiff are inspected for defects on a routine basis from monthly to annually depending on highway category. Major ponding on the highway is considered as a defect if it causes significant issues. Works are prioritised utilising a risk-based approach and delivered in a timescale appropriate to the severity of defect and as resources allow. Furthermore, the team responds to reports of flooding and ponding that are reported directly or via the out of hours service.

Highway gullies are cleansed on both a reactive and planned basis to address blockages should they occur. There are times, particularly in autumn and early winter, where issues such as leaf fall present increased demand in certain locations. In conjunction with Cleansing colleagues, a targeted approach is taken to ensure that known ponding hotspots are addressed as far as is reasonably practicable.

It must be recognised that the maintenance of the highway and the associated assets is an ongoing process, and blockages and defects will inevitably occur; however, every effort is made to minimise their impact by utilising available resources.

W8

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

Since the strike action affecting the waste department has been underway, how many reported flytipping events have been recorded?

How does this compare to the same period in the previous year?

Reply

During the period of industrial action from the start of September to the end of November 2023, the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by the Council was 1,427, with a further 328 in December 2023.

2023/24

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
496	520	411	328

In comparison, during the same period in 2022/23, the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded was 1,835, with a further 391 in December 2022.

2022/23

Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
567	602	666	391

W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>If the Council proceeds with removing many public waste bins, what alternative arrangements will be made for volunteer litter pick groups in the city to dispose of their waste?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Volunteer litter pick groups can already contact the Love Where You Live Team by emailing the team's dedicated e-mailbox (email: Lovewhereyoulive@cardiff.gov.uk) if they need any support with a litter pick event, such as making arrangements for the collection or removal of pink bags by the Council following a litter pick event.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>What impact does the Council anticipate a charge for collecting garden waste will have on flytipping in the city?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>More than half of all UK councils now charge for garden waste collections and there is no evidence that charging has resulted in increased fly-tipping. Garden waste will still be able to be taken and disposed of free of charge at the city's two recycling centres or composted at home.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>What steps are the Council taking to reduce flytipping across the City and how many successful prosecutions have the Council brought against flytippers in the last five years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Cardiff Council issued the highest number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for small-scale fly-tipping offences within Wales in 2021/22 (565 FPNs) and 2022/23 (511 FPNs). The Council also achieved the third highest number of prosecutions for offences of fly-tipping and/or Duty of Care, with a total of nine prosecutions.</p>

The Council's Waste Enforcement Team is comprised of 14 Enforcement Officers, of which four officers are dedicated to fly-tipping offences and a further four operatives work as part of two site clearance teams to remove bulky/large scale fly-tipping and undertake related investigations.

The Council has invested in digital reporting tools that enable residents to easily access and report details of fly-tipping incidents using the CardiffGov mobile app. The app controls duplicate reporting of fly-tipping by including a map which indicates where any such concerns have already been reported. In addition, details of the location and photos of the concerns can be provided using the app, which assists officers in directing appropriate resources. There is also an option for witness reporting and CCTV.

The Waste Enforcement Team currently has 12 deployments of direct surveillance and CCTV with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and infrared technologies to help detect fly-tipping using vehicles at identified hotspots in the city. In 2023/24, over 20 fly-tipping incidents have been caught on CCTV and will be progressed to prosecution.

W12

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

Please could the cabinet member responsible confirm the annual savings achieved by moving to a 4-day refuse collection rota?

Reply

The decision to move to 4-day working from February 2021 was not explicitly driven by the need to reduce costs. As detailed in the previous report to Cabinet in November 2020, the changes aimed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of collection services as follows:

- Waste and recycling will be off the streets by 3:15pm.
- Collections in winter will be safer, as they will predominantly take place during daylight hours.
- Productivity in the service will improve as the longer shift complements vehicle utilisation in terms of collections and disposal.

- No residential waste and recycling on Mondays will mean there will be no need to change resident collections days following a Bank Holiday Monday.
- Although Officers will work longer hours, they will have three rest days each week, promoting good work-life balance and wellbeing.

The change to 4-day working has seen a reduction in overtime payments. Prior to the changes in 2019/20, the service spent £236,000 per annum on overtime payments; however, in 2022/23, this had reduced by 57% to £101,000.

W13

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

Please could the cabinet member responsible confirm the annual revenue received from recycling split between types of recycling?

Reply

Please see below details of the recycling income for 2022/23 and projected income for 2023/24:

DOMESTIC WASTE- Recycling Income 22/23			Projected 23/24	Change from 22/23
		£	£	£
Materials generate income				
MRF	Steel Cans	-179,018	-151,594	27,424
MRF	Steel Scrap	-6,055	-9,168	-3,113
MRF	Aluminium cans - baled	-534,447	-385,499	148,948
MRF	Aluminium cans - loose	-181	0	181
MRF	Mixed paper - grade 1	-223,696	-128,642	95,054
MRF	Mixed paper - grade 2	-141,236	-128,884	12,352
MRF	Cardboard*	-178,594	-147,363	31,231
MRF	HDPE	-232,664	-200,557	32,107
MRF	Mixed plastic bottles	-597,938	-171,495	426,443
MRF	Tetra Pak		-505	-505
	MRF TOTAL	-2,093,828	-1,323,201	770,627
NEW	GLASS COLLECTIONS	-10,499	-30,817	-20,318
HWRC	Textiles	-43,856	-61,916	-18,060
HWRC	Others inc Cardboard	-52,981	-47,815	5,167
HWRC	Scrap Metal	-192,296	-158,572	33,724
HWRC	Car Batteries	-14,125	-11,988	2,137
	HWRC TOTAL	-303,259	-280,290	22,968
	Total Recycling	-2,407,587	-1,634,309	773,278

- The service anticipates a reduction in recycling income of £773,000 since 2022/23 due to fluctuations in the value of the materials being sold. Materials recycling is a volatile market prone to significant change.
- The figures provided above do not include operational costs or material disposal costs (MRF Glass, DMR, HWRC plastic, wood, rubble, mattresses etc.)

W14

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

With flooding across Cardiff being an ongoing problem during heavy rain, ensuring we carry out preventative measures is increasingly important to avoid expensive damage to property and highways. Part of these measures is regular gully cleaning to ensure rainwater drains away. I understand Cardiff Council only have three gully cleaning machines. Is this sufficient for a City of our size?

If not, are there plans to purchase more machines?

Reply

Highway gullies are cleansed on both a reactive and planned basis to address blockages should they occur. There are times, particularly in autumn and early winter, where issues such as leaf fall present increased demand in certain locations. In conjunction with cleansing colleagues, a targeted approach is taken to ensure known ponding hotspots are addressed as far as is reasonably practicable.

It must be recognised that the maintenance of the highway and the associated assets is an ongoing process, and blockages and defects will inevitably occur; however, every effort is made to minimise their impact by utilising available resources.

While the Council is in the process of replacing the current fleet of gully cleansing vehicles, there are no proposals to procure additional vehicles. However, during periods of high demand, such as storm conditions causing localised flooding, our adverse weather resources or external contractors may be engaged to assist our dedicated drainage resources.

W15

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What are the identified priority areas for street cleansing activities in the Gabalfa ward?

Reply

The priority areas are shopfronts and parks due to high footfall. This is followed by arterial routes that flow through Gabalfa, followed by neighbouring streets.

W16

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

Has the council terminated the contract on agency staff in waste management despite the ongoing industrial action?

Reply

The ongoing industrial action only relates to Unite members within the Council. Most of our workforce has continued to work through the strike action and that includes a percentage of agency staff who are recruited to cover seasonal work, holidays and sickness. The service has released agency staff during the strike action, and any decision to release agency staff is based on operational requirements at the time.

W17

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER

Is the council still planning to roll out segmented recycling to all of Pentwyn Ward by April 2024?

Reply

As I have outlined in my Council Statement, the segregated recycling scheme is planned to be expanded to encompass all households in Pentwyn, as well as households in Ely, Gabalfa, Grangetown, Heath West, Llandaff, Pentyrch, Radyr, Rhiwbina, Splott and Trowbridge. Communications and deliveries to residents commenced on 22nd January 2024, and all households will receive their sacks and caddies by 16th February, with collections of the new containers commencing from Tuesday 20th February.

Communal flats will not be included in the expanded scheme, but they will be receiving separate glass bins. Information on this will be shared at the appropriate time. In addition, a small number of properties are serviced by a smaller vehicle and are unable to be included at this stage. Lists of those properties serviced by this smaller vehicle have been circulated separately to councillors in those wards that are affected, and these properties will be added to the scheme once appropriate vehicles are procured.

W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>Are there records kept of the volumes of litter collected by litter picking volunteers?</p> <p>If so, what volume of litter has been collected in the last three years?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Yes, the service has been recording data since 2021. Records show that over 13,989 pink bags were collected in 2021/22 and 15,285 pink bags in 2022/23. In addition to pink bags, the team keeps a tally of recyclable litter collected in green bags by volunteers, with 858 collected in 2021/22 and 823 collected in 2022/23.</p> <p>Keep Wales Tidy have also published their Impact Report for 2022/23 (<u>Keep Wales Tidy Impact Report - Keep Wales Tidy</u>), which includes data specific to Cardiff. This can be viewed by selecting Cardiff on the map.</p> <p>Whilst both the Love Where You Live Team and Keep Wales Tidy do record activities that they are involved in, or that are reported to them, they are not party to all activities.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>Are there records kept of how many pink bags are used by volunteer litter pickers?</p> <p>If so, how many pink bags have been used in the last three years?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Yes, the service has been recording data since 2021. Since 2021, the Love Where You Live Team has issued over 1,600 rolls of pink bags to volunteers, which equates to 40,000 pink bags. Whilst the Love Where You Live Team does record activities they are involved in, or that are reported to them, they are not party to all activities.</p>

W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>How many street bins are there in the Llandaff Ward?</p> <p>How many are freestanding and how many are on lampposts?</p> <p>Also, have any street bins been removed and not replaced in the last year?</p> <p>If so, how many?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are 58 bins in the Llandaff ward, of which 51 are freestanding bins (13 in parks and 38 on-street) and 7 are lamppost bins. There are no records of litter bins being removed and not being replaced in the Llandaff ward.</p>
W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>Do we keep records of how many litter picking volunteers we have in Cardiff whether in community groups or individuals?</p> <p>If so, how many are there in total?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Love Where You Live Team keeps records of those volunteers that it works with and has 725 registered Litter Champions and 389 Litter Heroes. The team is also aware of, and is working with, 18 litter picking groups across the city. In addition, the Council works in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy who also recruit Litter Champions and have Litter Picking Hubs across the city.</p>
W22	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Does the council currently consider the streets of Cardiff to be clean (e.g. free of litter and waste)?</p>

Reply

The Council works hard to maintain and improve the level of cleanliness across the city. The Council also supports a successful 'Love Where You Live' approach encouraging residents and community groups to take a greater responsibility for the cleanliness of their local communities. Keeping Cardiff clean is not just the responsibility of the Council, but every one of us who lives, works, learns or plays here.

There is no hiding from the fact that the recent strike action has also added pressure to the service area, in what is traditionally a busy period, but we are grateful to the staff who have worked particularly hard during this period to maintain services.

Key performance indicators such as LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) are used to monitor issues such as litter, dog fouling, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti, and this information enables Neighbourhood Services to be efficient with their local cleaning activity and direct resources to those areas which require it on a more frequent basis.

The LEAMS summary for December 2023 has shown that Street Scene is currently averaging a score of 96%, with a target of 90% in a large number of wards; however, it has been identified that some areas of wards need to be a higher standard of cleanliness. Cleansing rounds are also being remodelled in 2024 in conjunction with a restructure of Neighbourhood Services and the delivery of a digital system to monitor and address concerns.

W23

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

How often have street sweeping teams visited Gabalfa ward in each of the last 6 months?

Reply

The Street Scene Shopfront Team attends Gabalfa on a daily basis. There is small mechanical sweeper based in the area from Monday to Friday, but this work can be impacted by winter maintenance. The Parks Team attends to the local parks three times per week and, when the parks are busy due to nice weather, this can be increased to five times per week.

W24

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

What Section 106 money, or similar, might the council need to return to developers contributing to new public bins within, near or outside the perimeters of their developments, should proposals go ahead to remove bins outside of the city centre?

Reply

The budget consultation includes the proposal to remove some street-based bins from residential streets in the city. Section 106 funding for bins would have only been requested for bus stops, parks, dog walking routes and new shopping areas – locations where the Council is looking to retain bins. Therefore, no Section 106 money, or similar, will need to be returned to developers.

W25

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

What is the update on the two sites I helped identify in Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth for communal car charging points, as being considered by 'Local Partnerships'?

Reply

We welcome any suggestions by individuals, communities and local ward members for the location of public electric vehicle (EV) charging points. We are currently in the process of developing our public EV charging strategy, which includes assessing potential sites in terms of constraints such as accessibility, connection, and proximity to properties and trees. We will make sure the sites at Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth are included and assessed as part of this work. We expect to progress to the procurement of further EV charging points in the second half of this year, following the development of the strategy.

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W26	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>Is there any further update you can provide as to any progress the council has made towards preventing the recognised drainage problems from Ysgol Bro Edern's playing fields which can lead to water flooding into back gardens of some properties in Carisbrooke Way during periods of heavy rain and when residents suffering from this problem might see a resolution to it?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the Council is progressing a plan to address the drainage issues as part of a wider scheme that includes the Redgra pitch. The Council will complete associated works in 2024/25 and these are being prioritised.</p>
W27	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>How many schools in the City have scaffolding and major structural repair work still outstanding? Please provide a list of schools, and the length of time the scaffolding has been erected and the cost to date.</p> <p>What commitments have been made to repair and remove the scaffolding?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A list of where scaffolding remains on school sites is provided below, together with the date of installation and planned date for removal, where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gladstone Primary School – to be removed in January 2024 (installed in June 2020)• Allensbank Primary School – to be removed in March 2024 (installed in June 2020)• Tremorfa Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in November 2020)• Severn Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in September 2022)• Albany Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in November 2021)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in August 2021) • Herbert Thompson Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in March 2023) • Roath Park Primary School – works being reviewed (installed in December 2021) • Bryn Y Deryn PRU – works being reviewed (installed in March 2023) <p>The cost of scaffolding on school sites from 2020 to the end of April 2024, including where scaffolding has been since removed, is circa £3.2m.</p> <p>It has been imperative that the Council installed the scaffolding listed as a preventative health & safety measure to avoid any risks of stonework falling on school building/site users.</p> <p>All schools that have scaffolding on site have identified projects that are currently being considered as part of the Education Asset Renewal Programme to resolve the issues and ensure that the scaffolding can be removed as soon as possible.</p>
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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W28	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Could the Council list the officer salaries of over £100,000 a year and indicate the level of responsibility?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, Directors and Chief Digital Officer all receive basic salaries of over £100,000.</p>
W29	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR McEVOY</u></p> <p>Could the Council list the two highest salaries earned at each secondary school in Cardiff?</p>

Reply

Under the Data Protection Act, the Council has an obligation to protect personal data that it processes. We have a statutory duty under Section 34 (3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 to comply with the data protection principles, which prohibits the release of personal data. Your question could lead to the release of personal data that relates to an individual and therefore cannot be provided. However, I would refer you to pages 53 to 54 of the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/23, which show remuneration of over £60,000 paid to 289 employees in schools.

W30

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

Will the Council consider requiring organisations that deliver services on its behalf to agree in writing to refraining from expressing political views as a condition of receiving public money to deliver those services?

Reply

I am confident that the Council already has sufficient provisions in place as part of the standard terms & conditions that are usually included, as a minimum, as part of any grant funding agreement. These prevent any funding awarded to an organisation by the Council from being used for party political purposes or any specific grant-funded services or activities from being party political in nature. Effective and regular monitoring by the Council of compliance with the terms & conditions of any grant is also important, together with an objective evaluation of the grant funding and services provided on behalf of the Council at year end.

W31

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Please detail what discussions members of the administration and/or council officers have had with representatives of Unite since the last full council meeting regarding their ongoing trade dispute with the council?

Reply

Since the last Council meeting on 30th November 2023, there have been a variety of discussions with Unite representatives in order to resolve the ongoing dispute, including meetings and correspondence. Details of meetings that have taken place are set out below:

Date	Meeting	Attendees
13 th December 2023	Dispute meeting	Leader, Chief Executive, Chief HR Officer, Unite Regional & Branch Officers
14 th December 2023	Recycling & Neighbourhood Services Service Area Joint Committee (SAJC)	Director of Economic Development, Corporate Director (People & Communities), Chief HR Officer, Managers from across Recycling & Neighbourhood Services, Unite Regional & Branch Officers, GMB and Unison Branch Officers
18 th December 2023	Trade Union Partnership meeting	Leader, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance, Chief HR Officer, Representatives from HR, Regional & Branch representatives from all recognised Trade Unions (including Unite) of the Trade Union Partnership
20 th December 2023	Dispute meeting	Leader, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation &

			Performance, Corporate Director (People & Communities), Unite Regional & Branch Officers
	15 th January 2024	Trade Union Partnership meeting	Leader, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance, Chief HR Officer, Representatives from HR, Regional & Branch representatives from all recognised Trade Unions (including Unite) of the Trade Union Partnership
W32	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>What offers has the council made to Unite since the last full council meeting in any attempt to bring to an end the union's ongoing trade dispute with the authority?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There have been ongoing discussions with Unite, which resulted in an offer being made to Unite prior to Christmas. This offer was made up of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An offer to 'buy-back' annual leave from staff in Recycling and Neighbourhood Services. This could amount to between £400 and £500 gross for most staff. • The commissioning of a mutually-agreed independent review of the allegations of widespread bullying within the service area. Although an independent report commissioned in mid-2022 concluded that: <i>'there is no evidence of generic bullying and harassment or a universal culture of bullying at Lamby Way.'</i> 		

- A Pay and Grading Review is part of our Workforce Strategy action plan and updates have been provided through Trade Union Partnership meeting.
- Cabinet has made a decision to improve the position for agency workers with a decrease from 24 to 12 months for the offer of a temporary contract. There was also a commitment to review the length of time for permanent contracts once the impact on permanent posts is understood from the budget settlement.

Disappointingly, this constructive contribution to resolving the dispute was rejected by Unite prior to commencing their second round of industrial action.

We have indicated to Unite a willingness to pursue additional avenues of discussion, whether directly or through ACAS, to resolve matters more widely. Our preference would be for Unite to suspend action in good faith while talks take place. From a Council perspective, this would be welcome and would enable the independent investigation to proceed immediately.

W33

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

Can you advise what discussions the Cabinet have had with the Trade Unions this year regarding the waste strikes and are these discussions ongoing?

Reply

To date in 2024, I can confirm that a Trade Union Partnership meeting was held on 15th January 2024, which involved regional and branch representatives from all recognised Trade Unions (including Unite) of the Trade Union Partnership.

W34

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

Can you advise how much we spent as a Council on consultants in each service area over the past 12 months?

Reply

The figures relating to consultancy spending, which are provided below, are for Month 1-9 of 2023/24. The main caveat to this is that figures represent payments made to date in respect of Months 1-9. As a result, these figures may not reflect the final position as it is possible that work undertaken or commissioned to date could be billed/paid for during the final quarter of 2023/24. The definition for consultancy used is: *“Individuals or organisations used to provide objective advice and assistance relating to the strategy, structure, management, or operations of the Council or specific profession input to a project in pursuit of the Council’s purpose and objectives.”* Please note that all figures provided below represent expenditure incurred only and take no account of funding type/source, such as grants, framework levies and other external income.

Directorate	£
Corporate Management	29,500
Economic Development	659,575
Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	101,550
Education	0
Planning, Transport & Environment	127,345
Housing & Communities	56,929
Performance & Partnerships	10,350
Adults' Services	3,355
Children's Services	0
Governance & Legal Services	0
Resources	46,680
Total	1,035,284
HRA	6,600

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Why are the online and hard copy versions of the budget consultation not exactly the same?

Reply

We were aware of discrepancy between the printed version and online version which was the result of an error during the design and print process.

	<p>To rectify this, all uncompleted hard copies of the budget consultation have been replaced with the correct question, with almost three weeks of the consultation remaining.</p> <p>When presenting the results to a consultation question where there is any difference between the printed copy and online copy, they will be presented separately of each other. This will allow the Council to have regard to the responses to the printed versions already submitted.</p> <p>It's important to note that for the specific question where there is a discrepancy – developing partnerships to run Bute Park Nursery, its visitor centre, or for Roath Park Conservatory which could reduce the council's subsidy in the future – no budget saving is being proposed at this time.</p> <p>Any future proposals for changing the way these services are delivered will be brought to Cabinet for consideration and will take into account views gathered as part of the budget consultation.</p> <p>We apologise for any inconvenience or misunderstanding due to this error.</p>
W36	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Will the Council commit to ensuring that any future consultations ask exactly the same worded questions, where online or via hard copy?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is committed to open, transparent and robust consultation and engagement practices. As I have set out in my reply to your previous question in relation to the consultation on the Council's 2024/25 Budget Proposals, there was a discrepancy between the printed version and online version, which was the result of an error during the design and print process.</p>
W37	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>How much debt has been written off by the Council in the last three financial years? Please provide a breakdown over the time period and the relevant debt category e.g. non-domestic rates, council tax, parking charge notices.</p>

Reply

Please see below details of debts written off over the last three financial years. Please note that the figures represent the value of debts written off in that year, but the actual debt could relate to a previous year.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£	£	£
Council			
Council Tax	865,811	846,922	1,554,033
Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)*	339,862	2,865,368	3,842,107
General Debtors	144,681	359,469	37,147
Parking	280,782	293,295	106,327
Moving Traffic Offences	389,394	421,926	388,962
	2,020,530	4,786,980	5,928,576
Housing Benefit			
Overpayments	668,860.01	485,114.77	436,210.08
Housing Revenue Account			
Rents and service charges	584,396.04	489,061.01	305,606.35
Recoverable repairs	156,172.98	16,920.61	475.29
	740,569.02	505,981.62	306,081.64

**Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) write-offs are borne by the All Wales Pool and not the Council.*

W38

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

Council loans maturing in 2029, 2036 and 2057 present alarming spikes, compared to the norm, of £30 million, £26 million and £46 million. What were the specific causes of those spikes and what problems will these significantly higher amounts present to the council now, or nearer the time?

Reply

The causes of the borrowing spikes are the result of loans undertaken or given over previous years, which mature in the same financial year. In the years that you refer to in your question, there are also specific loans received then maturing from Welsh Government in respect to development of a building safety developer loans fund (£20m) and a loan towards the Cardiff City Region Housing SME Housing Fund (£10m) to meet specific objectives. We expect the latter either to be returned or novated to the Corporate Joint Committee.

The risk of large spikes is one of re-financing risk. i.e the risk that funds may not be available in future to refinance such loans, or refinancing must take place at significantly elevated interest rates. The Council is aware of refinancing risks and, with most loans held borrowed from the national Public Works Loan Board, we do not see availability of funds being an issue.

The maturity profiles of loans are reported regularly as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, with periodic updates being reported to Full Council and Governance & Audit Committee. Opportunities will continue to be considered in future years to restructure borrowing (repay debt earlier); however, there are currently onerous penalties from the Public Works Loan Board that make this unviable at current interest rate levels.

Whilst the Council aims for a balanced maturity profile, peaks and troughs in maturity profiles may be part of a pre-determined Treasury Management Strategy – for example, where there is significant borrowing undertaken in the short term, pending interest rates to fall in the medium term, to allow re-financing of borrowing at lower rates and at a lower long-term cost.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES **(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)**

W39

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

What was the monthly footfall data for each Cardiff's hubs in 2023?

If footfall data is unavailable, please give alternative figures on how the Council measures the popularity of hubs?

Reply

I am pleased to say that there were more than 2 million visits to our hubs and libraries last year, an increase of 36% on the previous year. Footfall figures for all hubs and libraries for January-December 2023 are provided below:

Physical Footfall 2023-24 (Jan-Dec 2023)

	Jan	Feb	March	3 months	Apr	May	Jun	3 months	Jul	Aug	Sep	3 months	Oct	Nov	Dec	3 months	YTD
Butetown	1,289	1,360	1,410	4,059	1,381	1,244	1,314	3,939	1,340	1,269	1,230	3,839	1,509	1,607	1,311	4,427	16,264
Butetown Pav.	8,251	11,460	7,556	27,267	5,308	8,926	9,408	23,642	13,386	13,276	7,172	33,834	13,162	11,210	4,464	28,836	113,579
Canton	7,356	5,525	5,733	18,614	4,998	5,265	5,227	15,490	5,752	5,584	5,796	17,132	6,035	5,811	4,677	16,523	67,759
Cathays	3,163	2,970	3,110	9,243	2,677	2,940	2,689	8,306	3,353	2,953	3,391	9,697	3,401	3,133	2,135	8,669	35,915
Central	33,063	33,502	36,729	103,294	31,947	33,147	34,199	99,293	34,627	36,784	36,591	108,002	39,451	38,229	30,849	108,529	419,118
CRI	3,985	4,086	4,762	12,833	3,986	4,385	4,668	13,039	4,572	4,147	4,529	13,248	4,807	4,802	3,551	13,160	52,280
Ely	11,472	11,962	12,405	35,839	11,108	11,825	11,822	34,755	12,176	12,152	11,881	36,209	12,655	11,547	9,365	33,567	140,370
Fairwater	3,265	3,153	3,539	9,957	3,192	2,964	3,784	9,940	3,415	3,564	3,438	10,417	4,289	4,469	3,461	12,219	42,533
Grangetown	7,974	9,181	8,991	26,146	7,193	9,032	8,985	25,210	9,796	8,888	9,224	27,908	10,033	9,728	8,709	28,470	107,734
Llandaff North	11,545	10,432	11,740	33,717	10,495	10,567	11,315	32,377	11,351	12,542	12,534	36,427	13,154	12,697	11,409	37,260	139,781
Llanishen	3,667	3,463	3,523	10,653	3,108	3,548	4,076	10,732	4,313	4,499	4,234	13,046	3,966	3,464	3,342	10,772	45,203
Llanrumney	6,277	5,953	6,233	18,463	5,638	5,951	6,131	17,720	6,706	6,456	7,981	21,143	8,374	8,665	6,091	23,130	80,456
Outreach	1,674	1,914	2,107	5,695	1,135	1,512	1,616	4,263	1,717	1,594	1,611	4,922	1,208	906	508	2,622	17,502
Penylan	13,289	12,982	13,680	39,951	11,996	11,871	12,518	36,385	13,129	13,800	13,257	40,186	14,006	13,583	10,341	37,930	154,452
Powerhouse	9,060	8,623	10,778	28,461	7,971	11,425	8,853	28,249	10,844	10,921	12,196	33,961	11,368	13,276	7,667	32,311	122,982
Prison	1,243	887	1,346	3,476	296	718	825	1,839	870	668	702	2,240	1,002	961	709	2,672	10,227
Radyr	2,834	2,569	2,637	8,040	2,217	2,183	2,158	6,558	2,762	2,717	2,747	8,226	2,896	2,633	2,169	7,698	30,522
Rhiwbina	6,163	5,988	6,860	19,011	5,193	4,693	5,058	14,944	6,691	6,814	6,930	20,435	7,301	7,152	6,097	20,550	74,940
Rhydypennau	5,341	4,599	5,351	15,291	4,666	4,608	4,949	14,223	5,388	5,347	5,693	16,428	6,031	5,323	4,058	15,412	61,354
Rumney	1,928	2,149	2,539	6,616	2,602	1,035	1,679	5,316	2,012	2,505	1,917	6,434	2,280	2,434	1,610	6,324	24,690
St. Mellons	8,993	8,958	9,960	27,911	8,505	10,183	10,445	29,133	10,383	12,421	10,578	33,382	11,764	10,407	8,092	30,263	120,689
STAR	10,399	12,461	11,627	34,487	11,155	9,285	9,194	29,634	11,726	11,628	9,523	32,877	11,874	11,743	6,926	30,543	127,541
Tongwynlais	37	31	44	112	41	43	34	118	52	51	54	157	53	56	50	159	546
Whitchurch	4,916	4,313	4,553	13,782	3,906	3,843	4,801	12,550	5,020	4,629	4,888	14,537	4,718	4,355	3,581	12,654	53,523
Totals:	167,184	168,521	177,213	512,918	150,714	161,193	165,748	477,655	181,381	185,209	178,097	544,687	195,337	188,191	141,172	524,700	2,059,960

W40

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

What consideration was given to the risk of a reduction in opening hours, prior to refurbishing of Rhiwbina Hub in 2021/22?

Reply

As part of our commitment to develop community hubs in the north of the city with a focus on wellbeing, Rhiwbina, Rhydypennau and Whitchurch library buildings have all been refurbished to form hubs offering a range of new facilities and services.

The current financial situation means that we are having to review all expenditure and to make savings where we can; therefore, the current budget consultation includes a number of proposals which, if approved, would affect our hubs. The proposals that have been put forward are aimed at minimising the impact on these important facilities, whilst also delivering the required savings.

The level of the financial issues currently facing the Council could not have been foreseen before the refurbishment of Rhiwbina Hub and whilst the proposals put forward, if approved, would reduce opening hours, the refurbished hub would still be open and available for the community to enjoy at other times.

W41

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

Can the cabinet members give an indication of when the bus interchange/housing development proposed on the former recycling centre at Waungron Road will commence?

Reply

Transport for Wales has now finished the infrastructure works to extend the existing Waun-Gron Park train station platform and improve the retaining structure to the railway line, allowing site clearance work to be undertaken. Cardiff Living's partnering contractor, Wates, will be commencing preliminary site clearance and demolition works shortly, which will include utility companies working on service diversions. This work will then allow Wates to commence the actual construction works in Spring 2024. They are currently finalising the detailed construction design to enable the commencement of works on site.

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W42	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>What steps are the Council taking to support business start ups and entrepreneurs in Cardiff?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the Council provides a range of support to new businesses and start-ups in the city ranging from signposting and support with accessing services through to direct funding. This also includes access and direct links to finance organisations such as The Development Bank of Wales, British Business Bank and Cardiff Credit Union.</p> <p>The Council also works closely with Business Wales and Business in Focus to provide advice, mentoring and support to business start-ups and entrepreneurs across the city, with a wide range of support and training available.</p> <p>The Council is also supporting a wide range of activity through the Shared Prosperity Fund to support business start-ups and entrepreneurs. This includes projects delivered by Business in Focus to support entrepreneurs, an enterprise programme delivered by the Prince's Trust targeting young people who want to run their own business, as well as workshops to help start-ups to develop their business and products. In addition, the Cardiff Growth Fund provides up to £10,000 for existing SMEs in Cardiff to invest in their future.</p> <p>The Economic Development Team also manages and promotes business start-up offices with 'easy in, easy out' terms and administrative support to facilitate start-up and growth businesses. In addition, the department also operates small industrial units in nine locations across the city.</p>
W43	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARTER</u></p> <p>Is the council still planning to sell the old Retreat Pub site in Llanedeyrn to a Housing Association and if so, when will this take place?</p>

Reply

I can confirm that the Council continues to work with the preferred Housing Association. The site is currently being valued by an external agent to comply with the Council's policy to achieve best value.

W44

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

What are the repayment terms of two large 'Town Centre' and 'Transforming Towns' Loans to developers recently highlighted in officer decisions documents?

Reply

I can confirm that the recent officer decisions to which the Councillor refers, related to Town Centre Loans to safeguard the future of two buildings in the city – Park House in Park Place and Custom House in Bute Street. These came from the Transforming Towns Loan Fund, which the Council has negotiated with Welsh Government. The key terms of the loan have been set out by Welsh Government and have been built into the two legal agreements. They are as follows:

- The loan shall be interest free.
- The term of the loan shall be no more than 5 years. This is to ensure that the fund is replenished, and the monies can be loaned to other investment projects.
- Any permissions (i.e. planning permissions) need to be obtained prior to any loan funding advanced.
- The Council can charge a small arrangement fee and annual monitoring fees to ensure the project remains on course.
- The loan has to be fully secured.

In addition, the due diligence normally identifies additional pre-conditions and standard conditions that would need to be put in place in order to safeguard the Council's position and ensure that the key outputs from the development are delivered.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W45	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>How many times has the Leader met with trade union representatives regarding the current strike action affecting waste collection since 1st November 2023?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Meetings took place on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 20th November 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting● 13th December 2023 – Meeting with Unite representatives● 18th December 2023 – Trade Union Partnership meeting● 20th December 2023 – Meeting with GMB representatives● 20th December 2023 – Meeting with Unite representatives● 15th January 2024 – Trade Union Partnership Meeting
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SOCIAL SERVICES (JOB SHARE)
(COUNCILLORS ASH LISTER & NORMA MACKIE)

W46	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>What is the average Telecare emergency response times before and after the introduction of 20mph?</p> <p>How many calls per year do they receive?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The introduction of the new 20mph speed limit in residential areas has consisted of a number of different phases. For the purpose of this response, the data is supplied based on the official changeover date of 17th September 2023.</p> <p>The average response time for a responder to attend a property between May and August 2023 was 32 minutes 45 seconds.</p> <p>Since the change to 20mph, the average response time from October to December rose to 36 minutes.</p>
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During the 2023 calendar year, Telecare Cardiff received 251,207 calls, of which 137,212 were critical calls. This resulted in 9,383 requests for Mobile Responders to attend residents' properties.

W47

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

What is the average weekly cost of 'out of county' residential placements for Children Looked After (CLA) and what is the total annual spend on 'out of county' residential placements for the last three financial years?

Reply

Providing the best possible care and support for children and young people has and always will be a priority of this Council, as demonstrated in both the Striving for Excellence and Accommodation strategies.

The Council is committed to extending the provision of Homes for Children across the city, but also as "close to home" as possible, so we ensure the best possible outcomes for our children looked after, based on their needs.

Whilst every effort is made to find a suitable placement – through kinship, foster or residential care – in Cardiff, this is not always possible. For some children and young people, being placed 'out of county' may be the best option for them – i.e. to keep them close to their community, or for their own safety.

The average cost of an externally sourced residential placement in 2023/24 is £5,099 per week.

Total annual spending on all externally sourced residential provision (including funding contributions from Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, the Council's Education Directorate and COVID Hardship Fund) in the last three financial years was as follows:

- 2022/23 = £24,588,062
- 2021/22 = £19,299,000
- 2020/21 = £16,622,476

The impact of high inflation on the cost of these placements is likely to see annual spending by the Council increase further in 2023/24, though we hope to mitigate these rising costs as much as possible through the Accommodation Strategy.

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING
(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)

W48

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

The absence of safe pedestrian crossings on Lake Road West and Lake Road East is a continuing concerns for residents. In the weeks leading up to the Christmas break there was a serious incident near the Terra Nova Café entrance to the lake where a car collided with the bollard on the traffic island at this location. Does the council have any plans to replace the current traffic islands on these two roads with zebra crossings?

Reply

Improvements to walking and cycling are planned and prioritised through the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), in line with the requirements of the Active Travel Act. Cardiff's ATNM has recently been approved by Welsh Government and can be accessed at: datamap.gov.wales 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 improvement to bring them up to standard. Lake Road East and Lake Road West are designated as future walking and cycling routes (S34/CR-NOPQR on the approved ATNM), which could potentially incorporate the zebra crossing facilities that you say are needed.

The Council is developing proposals for the Roath Park Cycleway, of which Phase 3 would include Lake Road West. It is anticipated that the route would incorporate new or upgraded crossing facilities as part of this phase. At this stage, it's not possible to indicate the precise timescale for consultation on these proposals. Local ward members will be notified in advance of consultation taking place.

W49

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

What criteria are used to identify the locations where the civil enforcement team carries out traffic monitoring activities?

How frequently are the locations visited to carry out the monitoring activities?

Reply

Civil Enforcement Officers undertake patrols across the city in locations where there are parking restrictions to enforce, combined with visits from mobile enforcement vehicles and locations with CCTV enforcement cameras. Maps of all areas have been created highlighting which streets have parking restrictions. The frequency of visits is determined by the level of restrictions and local priorities, such as events or school drop-off/pick-up times. To help us to prioritise these areas, residents are encouraged to report parking problems directly via the CardiffGov mobile app or via the Council's website at: www.cardiff.gov.uk/reportparking Reports made in this way help identify areas where there are parking issues and patterns, and can result in more regular patrols where resources allow.

W50

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

Given the frequent disruption to bus services over the last couple of years as a result of a range of roadworks in the city centre and the adverse impact on bus punctuality of particular locations such as the West Grove/Newport Road junction, what dialogue has taken place between the council and senior managers at Cardiff Bus to minimise disruption as far as possible?

Reply

The Council recognises the impact that highway construction works have on bus operations in the city. Regular dialogue takes place between senior managers and transport project teams via weekly updates/meetings. Project teams also regularly discuss network issues with bus operators and take action to ensure that all highway construction works are conducted in the most effective manner possible.

W51

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES

Where will all forthcoming cycle lanes that have been confirmed for construction be located?

Reply

The next cycle lane scheme that has been confirmed for construction is the next phase of the Roath Park Cycleway, which is part of the Roath Park Cycleway Corridor. This phase will extend the cycleway on Wellfield Road along Roath Recreation Ground to Alder Road. Design options for further phases of the Roath Park Cycleway are in development and will be subject to consultation in due course. The Council has several other cycleways in the design and/or project stages, but these have not yet been 'confirmed for construction' as they are subject to design, process and funding confirmation from the Welsh Government.

W52

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Does the council have a clear protocol regarding when ward members should be notified of consultations, improvement works and repairs being undertaken in their wards in relation to highways and transportation issues (including consultations being undertaken on traffic regulation orders) in order to ensure they are able to effectively represent and inform their constituents?

Reply

For highway schemes involving improvements and repairs, the relevant team (i.e. Asset Management / Policy) inform local ward members as part of the consultation process or notify them by email. For utility works, the appointed contractor will undertake all necessary communications.

Utilities companies (e.g. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water or Wales and West Utilities) carry out all necessary notifications; however, all other minor works can change at short notice. Details of works being undertaken in Cardiff are listed/shown on the [one.network](#) website.

All local ward members are consulted on proposals requiring a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). In all likelihood, they will have already been consulted on these proposals by officers developing a scheme design prior to it being progressed to the TRO stage. The TRO Team then forwards the proposals on to local ward members by email allowing them 14 days to respond with any comments.

Following the 14-day consultation period, the agreed TRO proposal is then sent to the Council's Legal Services Team to prepare the legal adverts and site notices. When these are prepared and the publication date for the legal advert has been arranged, TRO officers will organise the erection of consultation notices on-street. These notices will be installed on-street in the vicinity of the scheme to coincide with the start of the legal advert. Local ward members are not formally notified when TRO public consultations are to commence.

W53

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN

Does the council consider it is appropriate and fair to residents to undertake consultations for a limited but fixed number of days that run directly through the Christmas holiday period?

Reply

The Council does consider it to be appropriate, and recent consultations that have taken place during such periods have resulted in a normal or high number of responses being received. Consultations will also usually run for a longer period – for example, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation will last for three weeks. If the Council restricted consultations to non-holiday periods, then the efficiency of both project delivery and key highway works and processes (such as renewal/improvement works and TROs) would be severely impacted.

W54

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

How many people have been fined on Cardiff roads since the drop to 20mph?

Reply

The enforcement of speed limits is a police matter; however, South Wales Police is not able to provide these figures as enforcement by GoSafe, the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, has not yet taken place on any new 20mph road in Cardiff.

GoSafe is currently dealing with 20mph compliant roads daily, with the worst affected roads being referred to Operation Ugain, a bespoke team comprised of Welsh Police Forces and Fire & Rescue Services staff, which has been set up to deliver dedicated roadside engagement and education to drivers across Wales. On compliant roads where there is found to be a genuine speeding issue, and where the police can safely park, speed surveys will be carried out to determine if these roads meet the criteria to become adopted GoSafe sites. Enforcement has continued on those 20mph roads within Cardiff (14 roads in total) that had a 20mph speed limit in place prior to 17 September 2023.

W55

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

Does the Council have any plans on increasing the number of planning officers to deal with the ever rising number of applications and pressures?

Reply

I am sure you will appreciate that all council budgets and services are under considerable pressure at the moment, and the Planning Service is no exception. The number of planning applications received by the Council as the Local Planning Authority has actually remained fairly consistent over recent years and, if anything, has seen a slight reduction in recent years. You will also be aware that the statutory fees set by Welsh Government, which help to generate the income to support the Planning function, have not increased for several years, which means that the Planning Service is receiving less income in real terms year-on-year. Officers are working across all Local Planning Authorities in Wales to seek an increase in these fees in an attempt to ensure that Planning Services across Wales can work towards a full cost recovery position, which would mean that this important function can be delivered at no or little cost to the Council.

With regard to increasing the number of planning officers employed by the Council, you will have seen that our Planning Service has recently created a Group Leader post to manage the Planning Enforcement Team, appointed a County Ecologist, appointed a Principal Officer in the Placemaking Team and converted two temporary posts into permanent positions. All these posts are newly created posts beyond the previous establishment. I will continue to work with the Director and senior officers to ensure that all essential posts in the Planning Service are protected and all opportunities are taken to create additional income and grow the team in the future.

W56

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

Does the Council have any plans to appoint additional officers to the regulatory service to offer residents the chance to log concerns 7 days a week and in the evenings/overnight?

Reply

No, both Shared Regulatory Services and council services offer digital services that enable Cardiff residents to log concerns, which will then be addressed by relevant officers. The Council also currently funds additional regulatory support for dealing with reported noise concerns over the weekend and into the evening.

W57

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

How much money has the Council spent on introducing cycle lanes across the City and how much more money does it plan to spend? Please provide a breakdown of key cycle schemes and costs.

Reply

The Council publishes spending on Active Travel infrastructure as part of the Active Travel Annual Report. The Council spent £11,103,189 on cycle schemes in the 2022/23 financial year. The budgeted spend for the current 2023/24 financial year is £4,500,000.

It is important to note that all of the cycle lane schemes delivered also include the renewal of all (or most) of the highway assets in the project area – this includes carriageway construction, resurfacing, pavements, drainage, pedestrian crossings, any bus related infrastructure and street lighting.

All transport project delivery is subject to Welsh Government funding. The Council will continue to apply for Active Travel funding in order to achieve our vision for Active Travel in Cardiff, as set out in the Transport White Paper.

W58	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Please could the cabinet member responsible confirm the total cost of 20mph implementation across Cardiff?</p> <p>How much of this amount was funded by Welsh Government?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The total forecast cost of the default 20mph roll-out in Cardiff is £2,573,436. The scheme is fully funded by Welsh Government.</p>
W59	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Please could the cabinet member responsible confirm the total money spent on cycle lanes for the last financial year and budgeted spend for this financial year?</p> <p>Was this capital or revenue spend?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I would refer you to the answer provided above to the related Written Question from Councillor Williams (W57).</p>
W60	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member outline fixed timescales for undertaking a review of the parking arrangements on roads between Whitchurch Road and North Road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The design phase of the review has started, which has included site visits. Given current commitments, resources and the timescales involved in the process, the best estimate for the delivery of any changes to the parking arrangements is in the 2025/26 financial year. Delivery will be subject to funding decisions depending on costs and competing demands. The team undertaking the review will be in contact with local ward members in the next few months to start initial discussions.</p>

W61

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

What steps is the council taking to work with South Wales Police to tackle pavement parking and lane obstructions in the Gabalfa ward?

Reply

The enforcement of pavement parking and obstruction is currently only enforceable under existing legislation by the police. The Council would only be able to enforce vehicles parked in these locations where there are parking restrictions in place via a Traffic Regulation Order. Joint patrols have been undertaken by Civil Enforcement Officers, working alongside Police Community Support Officers, to ensure a joined-up approach to parking enforcement and we will continue to prioritise resources to undertake these joint patrols whenever requested.

W62

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

Will the Cabinet Member commit to undertaking a road safety and traffic speed assessment on Clodien Avenue owing to resident concerns about damage to vehicles, traffic speeds, and dangerous driving?

Reply

Following the new 20mph legislation coming into effect, the Council will be carrying out monitoring of vehicle speeds across the city. The data gathered will give an indication of the impact of the 20mph speed limit on vehicle speeds and highlight any locations where there are lower levels of compliance with the new speed limit and where vehicle speeds may be significantly exceeding it.

This data will help the Council to understand the impacts of the change on roads and routes across different areas. The data will be reviewed after 12 months, along with public feedback received via local ward members and through correspondence. This evidence will then inform locations where further interventions (such as speed management measures or enforcement in discussion with Go Safe) may be required to reinforce speed limits and which areas should be targeted and prioritised for these interventions based on robust evidence.

	<p>While we are within the monitoring period for the project, the Council does not intend to reactively introduce any physical speed management measures. Any measures that may be required will be determined following the 12-month review of the monitoring data.</p>
W63	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Does the council actively review phasing and operation of traffic signals in relation to traffic flow in the city, and if so, is the movement of buses (public transport) prioritised?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Officers in the Traffic Control Room always try to accommodate public transport and make concerted efforts to assist bus movements when there is congestion. Officers work closely with bus operators to overcome specific issues of concern. The needs of all road users are taken into consideration and provided for within the constraints of the capacity available on the network.</p> <p>Although the staging of traffic signals is often designed give a degree of priority to public transport movements, where appropriate, there is currently no demand responsive system in place that gives buses priority. Such systems will be researched through trials. The Council provides infrastructure and controls traffic movements to prioritise public transport at key points in the network. We have already done a lot to support bus movements in the city through the implementation of bus lanes, bus gates and access restrictions.</p>
W64	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Is the council doing anything to review and improve the electronic miPermit system to make it more straightforward, user friendly and less time consuming for residents to use across all types of permit?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The roll-out of digital parking permits is continuing across Cardiff and will be completed by April 2024. Ongoing support is being provided to residents as this change is being implemented and, since April 2023, over 8,000 digital resident permits have been issued, with only 1.5% requiring assistance and 98.5% of permits being successfully applied for online. Support is available if required from the Parking Services Team, by contacting MiPermit, or through face-to-face support from staff in local Hubs, who have been trained to provide assistance with digital parking permits to residents.</p>

Work is currently ongoing to establish a City Parking Plan for Cardiff, which will include new parking policies to ensure that parking rules are simple, consistent, and easy to understand for both residents and visitors. Evaluation of digital parking permits will be undertaken alongside the consultation on this plan to ensure a coherent approach to the delivery of the new plan.

W65

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LIVESY

What confirmed and definite schedule of works can residents of Star Lane and Llantrisant Road, Capel Llanilltern, expect in this new year to remedy the worsening surface water problems they have been enduring for many years?

Reply

Due to the nature of surface drainage remedial works, which are required to be undertaken in a specific order, it is often difficult to give definitive dates, as in these particular instances. As you are aware, the remedial works in this area are made up of different aspects, some of which have already been completed. Arch Services undertook an extensive cleanse and survey of the highway drainage along Llantrisant Road during autumn 2023 and clearance work within the ditch adjacent to Star Lane has also been undertaken. A meeting between officers from the Council's Flood Risk Team and residents and local ward members to discuss the location of new highway gullies is in the process of being arranged for the end of next month.

