

COUNCIL, 28 MARCH 2024: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE **(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)**

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>What steps is the Council taking to assess the success and public approval of the new recycling regime?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The service is monitoring the quality of recyclable materials being presented by residents participating in the segregated recycling scheme. This is assessed by measuring how much material must be sent to the Energy from Waste facility, rather than being recycled.</p> <p>The rollout is still at an early stage, but current monitoring has shown that 4%-6% of segregated recyclable materials is being sent to the Energy from Waste facility, compared to 30% for co-mingled materials, which is excellent news. By improving the quality of recycled materials collected as part of the segregated recycling scheme, we can access more markets for the resale and reprocessing of the recycled materials and thereby achieve a higher price for our recycled waste. This also supports our aim to develop a circular economy for the city's recycling.</p> <p>The service is also monitoring the street scene following collections to check for any related concerns. Through this process, the service has identified that the use of reusable sacks has prevented birds and other animals from spreading recycling over the street scene.</p> <p>A change of service will always receive a degree of initial resistance and this is expected. The Council monitors complaints and will use this information to help identify if any improvements to services can be made.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>What solutions have been identified for the rollout of the new recycling regime to HMOs, flats, and houses converted into flats?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The service is reviewing the capacity requirements of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to help reduce the number of items required to be presented and stored in terms of bins, caddies and reusable sacks. This will be included in the new Supplementary Planning Guidance for Recycling/Waste Collections and Storage Facilities. Smaller reusable sacks will be available to properties that may only have one or two occupants.</p>
W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Can the council indicate when the garden waste collections will start up again in Cyncoed and Lakeside?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Garden waste collections in the city will resume from Tuesday 2nd April 2024. Communications relating to the resumption of garden waste collections commenced on 19th March and residents are able to check details of their next scheduled garden waste collection dates on the Council's website or via the CardiffGov mobile app.</p>
W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>I have seen a number of reports on social media reporting the Velcro on new recycling bags is failing and allowing waste to be blown out and over the street. What is being done to resolve this issue?</p> <p>Will the design be changed prior to another roll out?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The reusable sacks used as part of the segregated recycling scheme have been designed and manufactured using similar specifications to those sacks that are already used by several other local authorities in Wales. Residents need to ensure that they line up the Velcro to ensure a good seal; however, if a resident feels that they have a defective bag, then they should request a replacement bag via the website or CardiffGov mobile app stating 'defective bag' as the reason for the request.</p>

W5

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LITTLECHILD**

How many missed or delayed waste collections have there been in areas that have the new mixed waste scheme rolled out?

Reply

There have been delays in collections following the rollout of segregated recycling. Whilst collection staff have received training, they are also learning to operate a new service. The service has had contingency measures in place in the evenings and on weekends to help mitigate any disruption and ensure that no collections are missed.

Several members of collection staff returned from strike action at the start of March but, as of the week commencing 11th March, there were still 32 employees participating in the strike action by Unite trade union members. This has also had some impact on the delivery of the new segregated recycling scheme and the level of contingency available within the service.

It is envisaged that service performance for segregated recycling collections will continue to improve and any delays in collections are expected to be reduced next month with the return of staff following the end of the strike action.

W6

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

How many waste enforcement notices have been issued to properties in Gabalfa Ward and the city overall in each of the last 12 months?

Reply

There have been 23 Section 46 Notices issued in Gabalfa during the period from 1 April 2023 to 15 March 2024. A total of 4,362 Section 46 Notices have been issued across the city during the same period. This includes 1,714 issued in Cathays and 415 issued in Plasnewydd as part of the engagement with students at the start of the academic year in October & November 2023.

W7	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Given the council waste guidance says paper and card should be presented dry, why have Blue sacks been provided rather than water tight storage (such as a Caddie or bin) for paper and card presentation as part of the new segregated waste system?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The reusable sacks are used widely across Wales for the collection of recycled paper and card. They are generally shower-proof and suitable for keeping materials dry if used and presented correctly. Saturated cardboard and paper causes problems in bailing materials for recycling; however, to date, we have had a bigger issue with the contamination of our recycled materials, particularly with the co-mingled recycling system, which has affected the quality of the recycled materials that can be resold by the Council for reprocessing. This is one of the main reasons why we are implementing the segregated recycling scheme.</p>
W8	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN</u></p> <p>When will the current two weekly black bin collection change to three weekly?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There is no agreed date for when additional residual waste restrictions will be implemented. Any change will not be implemented until the city-wide rollout of segregated recycling and changes to weekly collections of absorbent hygiene products have been completed.</p>
W9	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN</u></p> <p>Since the new waste rollout, how much longer has it taken, on average, to complete a round?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>New segregated recycling collection rounds complete between 60% and 75% of houses compared to those covered by co-mingled green bag collection rounds. Time and motion monitoring is still being undertaken as part of the changes; however, it takes longer to complete the segregated recycling collection rounds due to the return of reusable sacks to properties by collection staff and a safety feature on the vehicles which requires a button to be held in order to operate the compressive scoop. Some delays were expected and this forms part of our resourcing plan; however, we do expect the collections to speed up as staff become more accustomed to the changes.</p>
W10	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Hygiene waste is presented by residents either in yellow or purple plastic bags. Could the cabinet member explain why different coloured bags are used?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A change from yellow to purple coloured bags for hygiene waste was implemented 12 months ago following consultation with the Council's Dementia Friendly Cardiff Team. Studies have shown that yellow, although usually termed a happy colour, can create anxiety for people with dementia and mental health issues. Therefore, the service moved away from procuring yellow bags and now procure purple bags. However, some yellow bags remain in circulation and the Council wants these to be used where possible to avoid the need for them to be disposed of. The caddies and bins have remained yellow as this is the recognised colour used for hygiene waste so collection staff know what is contained in the caddy or bin.</p>
W11	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Does residual (black bin waste) and hygiene waste get treated the same way at the processing plant? Or are they processed differently?</p>

Reply

Hygiene waste collected in Cardiff is recycled by a company in Wales. The recovery process first cleanses and then separates the plastics and cellulose fibres for re-use. The cellulose fibres are used for a variety of commercial purposes, including the production of fibre boards and acoustic panelling, spill kits etc., with the plastics sent to secondary re-processors for recycling. Residual waste (black bin waste) is sent to the Energy from Waste facility in Cardiff. Unfortunately, during the recent strike action, the Council did not have sufficient resources to collect hygiene waste separately and, therefore, this had to be collected together with residual waste (black bin waste) and sent to the Energy from Waste facility in the city.

W12

**WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
LANCASTER**

What consultation was held with local residents and businesses on the plans to alter Merthyr Road under the Greener Whitchurch scheme?

How much will the scheme cost, and where is the funding coming from?

Reply

Initial consultation on the Greener Whitchurch Flood Alleviation Scheme took place on 12th July 2023 when a stakeholder workshop was held at Whitchurch Tennis Club. This was attended by elected members, local businesses and community groups whose views were sought on early outline designs that were provided at the workshop. The feedback informed further outline designs that were made available subsequently at a public engagement session that was held at Whitchurch Hub on 16th January 2024. Approximately 200 people attended this drop-in event and members of the Greener Whitchurch project team were present to note any comments and answer any queries from attendees.

The scheme is currently in the early stages of detailed design work. As a result, no information regarding the impact of the scheme on Merthyr Road is available at this time; however, once the detailed design work has been completed, further consultation events and workshops will take place with residents, stakeholders and local ward members.

	<p>Greener Whitchurch is a catchment-wide flood alleviation scheme that will lower the flood risk posed from Whitchurch Brook and surface water sources. As part of this scheme, a full business case will be completed, which will include the estimated cost of construction. Exact costs of construction will not be known until the competitive tender exercise is completed.</p> <p>Should the full business case/detailed designs be accepted by the Welsh Government, an application for funding to commence construction will be made. The Welsh Government has provided 100% of the funding for the completion of the outline business case and the full business case. If the funding application is successful, then the Welsh Government will fund 85% of the construction costs.</p>
W13	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LANCASTER</u></p> <p>Could you please confirm whether buses will still be able to pass each other on Merthyr Road after the completion of the works to narrow the road under the Greener Whitchurch scheme?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>As I confirmed in reply to the previous question, the Greener Whitchurch Flood Alleviation Scheme is currently in the early stages of detailed design work. You can be assured that transport impacts will be considered as part of this.</p>
W14	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS</u></p> <p>How many vehicles does the Council own/lease and what portion of these vehicles are electric?</p> <p>Can the answer also outline the Council's strategic approach to electric vehicles?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council currently has 684 owned vehicles, 377 hired vehicles and 371 leased vehicles. Of these, we currently have 85 electric vehicles and will have another 21 electric vehicles by the end of this month. The Council also has 110 electric vehicle (EV) charging points installed across the city for use by our fleet.</p>

	<p>The Council is open to all forms of low carbon transport solutions and will consider the procurement of electric vehicles to replace current Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles when they become commercially available and viable, and also meet service requirements.</p> <p>Cardiff Bus will shortly be bringing 19 new electric buses into service that have been grant funded by the Council through a funding allocation from the Welsh Government. We have also just announced a scheme to support the taxi trade to upgrade their older diesel cars. In addition, an EV charging 'road map' is due to be launched soon that will set out the policy direction and additional investment to increase the number of charging points available to the public.</p>
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CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS
(COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BURKE)

W15	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet member confirm that the council sought independent legal advice on the implications of the Maindy GLL contract on the trust arrangements for Maindy Park?</p> <p>Can that advice be placed in the public domain?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>At the time that the lease agreement for the operation of the leisure facilities was implemented, the Council did not seek independent legal advice on the implications of the GLL contract for Maindy Park Trust. This is largely due to the fact that the Council was outsourcing to a third party to operate the facilities for cost and efficiency savings; however, internal legal advice was maintained throughout the process.</p>
W16	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the cabinet member confirm that allotment land off Sachville Avenue, belonging to Flaxland Allotments, will be remediated and brought back into use?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Following our productive site meeting earlier this month, I can confirm that the Council is fully committed to rejuvenating the area for allotment gardening. I'm happy to report that the new fence installation, enhancing site security, is now complete, and we've also ensured a reliable water supply for the area. Moving forward, additional soil testing will be conducted to determine the best remediation solution for bringing the site back to life.</p>
W17	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>How much say or involvement did the Council have in the decision by GLL to change the use of the main hall at Penylan Community Centre to incorporate a permanent play structure, removing the facility of exercise classes? I.e. did someone in the Council or administration (and if so, who) have to be consulted and / or sign it off?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The leisure offer at Penylan Library and Community Centre is managed by GLL, the Council's leisure partner. Using their leisure sector knowledge and expertise, GLL continually review programmes across our centres and this can result in the introduction of new activities, such as the soft play, in order to increase attendances and promote health and well-being. Council officers maintain regular communications with GLL regarding all aspects of the contract.</p> <p>GLL advised the Council of their proposals and rationale for introducing a soft play structure in the main hall area. The proposals put forward are compliant with the contract and were approved.</p> <p>With regard to exercise classes, GLL have confirmed that some group fitness classes have been relocated to other areas within the centre and to alternative venues within a 3-mile radius. In addition, the gym at the facility will continue to function for fitness sessions and classes.</p>
W18	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>Given that the change of use of the main hall at Penylan Community Centre means local self-employed business owners who run exercise classes are being removed from the local area (offered space at other GLL venues is not local to the community), and therefore are going to lose income, was there a public consultation carried out?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The group fitness programme is delivered by GLL employees and some of them teach classes at a number of GLL centres across the city. Changes in programming without the need for public consultation are a regular feature of leisure provision, as services need to respond and adapt to changing customer requirements. In this instance, GLL have been able to retain both the customer base and instructors delivering activities. No group fitness instructors have had their classes reduced and, in some instances, they have been offered additional classes.</p>
W19	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>Given that the change of use of the main hall at Penylan Community Centre means exercise classes are being removed from the local area (offered space at other GLL venues is not local to the community), how does this decision fit with the Council's Active Travel Plans and policy now that attendees cannot walk to their nearest GLL hosted class?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Most group fitness classes will continue to be available at Penylan Community Centre; however, GLL have confirmed that some classes have been relocated to alternative venues within a 3-mile radius. In addition, the gym at the facility will continue to function for fitness sessions and classes. As per their usual business procedures, GLL will continually review the programme at the facility and expand it, where possible. Whilst recognising the importance of active travel, service provision does need to adapt to changing demands to meet the needs of differing demographics.</p>
W20	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SHIMMIN</u></p> <p>Who is responsible for the physical upkeep of the building of Penylan Community Centre, as there is a serious looking problem by the entrance which hasn't been addressed for some time?</p> <p>When will the Council either carry out the repair if it is they who are responsible or enforce GLL if it is theirs to do?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>GLL are responsible for the general repair and maintenance of the Centre. The responsibility for the external structures rests with the Council. The damage to the external wall area that you refer to, adjacent to the entrance, was caused by a motor vehicle accident. The Council is seeking to fund repairs through its insurers and it is anticipated that these repairs will be completed early next month.</p>
W21	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LANCASTER</u></p> <p>Budget cuts are causing uncertainty among staff at the National Museum of Wales and are jeopardising the ability of the Museum to hold new exhibitions. While this may be largely a Welsh Government matter, what can Cardiff Council do to help ensure that exhibitions led by local organisations such as Cardiff Naturalists' Society can proceed as planned?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Notwithstanding the budgetary pressures faced by both organisations, the Council is working with senior management of the National Museum of Wales to collaborate closely on the city's cultural proposition, including future exhibition opportunities.</p>

DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W22	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Which secondary schools in Cardiff do not have single-sex toilets and which ones have applied for funding to rectify this given it is against requirement of The School Premises Regulations 1999?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are no designated unisex toilets in Cardiff secondary schools. Schools are able to designate toilets as male and female as they see fit, according to their pupils' needs and any particular concerns amongst their pupils and parents.</p>
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W23	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>What is the council’s current estimate of the number and percentage of local authority-funded a) primary schools, b) secondary schools and c) special schools in Cardiff which will need to set deficit budgets for the 2024-25 financial year?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council continues to be in discussion with individual schools in respect of their budgets for 2024/25. The final 2023/24 outturn positions for each school have yet to be determined and this will impact on the number of schools affected.</p>
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FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)

W24	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member confirm why the webcast for planning committee on 14th March was not working (and I understand other committees were also affected) and what can be done to prevent this reoccurring?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>On 13th March 2024, an internal ICT internet fault occurred, which prevented the live streaming of a meeting of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, as well as a meeting of the Planning Committee the following morning. However, these meetings were recorded and uploaded to the Council’s webcasting site within 48 hours in accordance with the Council’s Multi-Location Meetings Policy. Following a detailed technical investigation by the ICT team, the fault was addressed and the meeting of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee on 14th March 2024 was live streamed as planned. The internet connections and their performance are continually monitored to ensure that council services can be delivered as intended.</p>
W25	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN</u></p> <p>Are the council looking for an alternative provider for webcasting which can include simultaneous translation?</p>

Reply

The Council's current webcasting provider is Public-i, which is the UK's main webcasting provider. They are contracted to provide 200 hours of dual language webcasting facilities in accordance with the Council's Multi-Location Meetings Policy and our Welsh Language Standards.

The latest contract with Public-i began in March 2023 for a maximum of two years following a robust procurement process. The Public-i solution chosen was the best and most cost-effective provision available on the market. Contract performance is monitored in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. In addition, Public-i also provides a feedback facility, which enables webcast viewers to comment on the quality of the service that they have received from Public-i. This feedback is provided to Democratic Services and any concerns are recorded and addressed, as necessary.

The Council is always looking to develop its services, particularly as new technologies become available. Alternative webcasting solutions that meet the necessary legislative and constitutional requirements may be identified during the existing contract period. These options may be formally considered as part of the procurement process when the contract is renewed from 1st April 2025.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES
(COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE)

W26

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

Has the council received any financial contribution from Transport for Wales (TfW) for the use of the former recycling centre on Waungron Road to accommodate the TfW compound whilst facilitating the upgrade of the rail network; if so, how much?

Reply

The Council has not received any financial contribution from Transport for Wales (TfW) for the use of the former recycling centre at Waungron Road. TfW used the site to assist in the construction of an extended platform at the adjacent Waun-Gron Park train station, as part of the wider Metro infrastructure programme and improvement works.

As part of the works undertaken by TfW, the Council and TfW agreed that the construction of a retaining structure would be completed, which partly serves the platform extension and is also required as part of the engineering requirements of the new bus interchange and council housing scheme. This needed to be completed before the commencement of works to develop the new bus interchange and council housing scheme.

Initial site preparation works have now commenced, which include diversions to existing services/utilities. Once completed, the main works will start, with the new bus interchange and housing development expected to be completed in mid-2026.

W27

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN

How many people are on the council housing waiting list, how many properties are available and what is the longest time a person has been waiting?

Reply

The Council and Housing Associations in the city have a Common Housing Waiting List for our properties.

As of 1st March 2024, 8,634 households were registered on the Common Housing Waiting List.

1,064 properties were let to households on the Common Housing Waiting List between 1 April 2023 and 29 February 2024.

On 18 March 2024, 146 council properties were under offer to people on the Common Housing Waiting List.

The Cardiff Allocations Scheme prioritises people with assessed housing needs and a local connection to Cardiff. People without a housing need and/or a local connection can register on the waiting list, but it would be very unlikely that they would be allocated a property or they would have a very long waiting time.

The household that has the longest waiting time for a social home has been waiting 40 years. This household has no housing need and has a very limited area of choice as to where they want to live. They were once offered accommodation, but refused this offer.

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

What is the average waiting time for an individual or family to be offered a suitable property? This is in respects to the housing waiting list. Please can the answer provide a breakdown of property types and the average waiting time for each.

Reply

Allocations to social homes in Cardiff are made through the Common Housing Waiting List. A banding scheme is used to ensure that those people with the greatest housing need and who have a local connection to Cardiff are prioritised for social housing.

The level of housing need is separated into categories depending on the severity of the housing circumstances – i.e. immediate; urgent; high, and medium. Housing need includes, for example, being homeless or threatened with homelessness; medical/mobility issues made worse by current accommodation; overcrowding; under-occupation, and domestic violence.

The table below shows the average length of time from the date that the applicants register on the Common Housing Waiting List to the date that they are let a property. This information is broken down by property type and relates to lets that took place during the period from 1st April 2023 to 29th February 2024. However, the waiting times do not tell the full story as the information does not include those that are still waiting to be rehoused. Unfortunately, this waiting time can be a very long time.

Property Type	Average Years/Months
Adapted bungalow	1 year 2 months
Flat	1 year 2 months
Highrise flat	1 year 8 months
Maisonette	1 year
Non-parlour house	2 years
Parlour house	1 year 9 months
Retirement bungalow	1 year 11 months
Retirement complex	1 year 5 months
Retirement flat	1 year 10 months
Retirement Highrise flat	6 months
Room in shared house	3 months
Average (all property types)	1 year 6 months

The table below shows the longest time that individuals have been waiting for accommodation in each of the housing needs bands (excluding those where there is no housing need and/or local connection). This information is correct as of 29th February 2024.

Band	Longest Wait Time
Immediate	2 years
Homeless	
Band A	2 years
Band Bi	5 years
Band Bii	5 years
Beneficial	
Band A	9 years
Band B	10 years
General	
Band A	9 years
Band Bi	23 years
Band Bii	27 years

Where a person has no housing need, the longest time a person on the Common Housing Waiting List has been waiting is 40 years.

There are many contributing factors that influence the length of time that households need to wait for a property to be allocated to them. These include:

- **Rehousing need** – a change in housing need during time on the waiting list.
- **Percentage of lets** – those who are deemed as having an immediate housing need and homeless households receive a higher percentage of the total number of allocations. This means that waiting times will be shorter.
- **Area choices** – some applicants have very limited areas of choice where there is low availability of social housing stock. This means that waiting times will be longer.
- **Refusals** – some households can be made two offers of accommodation. If they refuse the first offer, this will result in longer waiting times.
- **Accommodation type** – people who need a specific type of accommodation where there is little of this stock may have to wait longer for a suitable property.
- **Vacant social housing stock verses demand** – demand for social housing significantly outweighs available social housing stock.

It is not uncommon for a combination of all the factors listed above to apply to a significant number of applicants on the Common Housing Waiting List and many factors contribute to how long a person may have to wait for rehousing.

W29

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Can the Cabinet Member confirm no council-owned/leased residential property has been vacant for more than 6 months?

If so, please provide a breakdown of the type and number of properties and the length of time they have been vacant.

Reply

There are currently 11 units of accommodation that have been void for more than six months. These 11 units consist of seven 1-bed flats at Nelson House in Butetown, three 3-bed houses and one 4-bed house. This equates to 0.08% of our total council housing stock. Of these units, seven units are being kept vacant to facilitate reconfiguration of the building and there is no intention to re-let these units at present. The other four units either require or are undergoing works. Further details are provided below:

1-bed flats (7)

Date became void	Reasons for length of void	Expected date of return
Void from various dates (3 units since 2018; 3 units since 2022, and 1 unit since 2023)	Following concerns raised by the Fire Service about the use of Nelson House high rise as Community Living for older people, work is being carried out to redesign these units into family accommodation. Flats are being held vacant to allow this work to be carried out. The top two floors have already been completed and as more floors become vacant the redesign throughout the block will continue. Plans are underway to support older, remaining residents into alternative accommodation, a new community living block is being developed in Butetown and residents of Nelson House will have priority for this new accommodation.	Unknown currently

3-bed houses (3)

Date became void	Reasons for length of void	Expected date of return
19/04/2021	<p>Before this property was vacated the tenant had lived there for decades and unfortunately did not engage when attempts were made to upgrade it. In addition to this, the property requires extensive structural and refurbishment works. The major structural works include large scale jobs to fix the issues caused by significant flooding in the basement. These large works require full surveys, extensive Health & Safety Risk Assessments and Method Statements to carry out the specialist works that are required to complete these jobs. In addition, new windows, kitchen and bathroom are also required.</p> <p>Over the period that this property has been vacant there has been considerable pressure on maintenance services. Properties that can be turned around quickly have been prioritised over properties which require very extensive amount of works in order to make maximum use of the resources available.</p>	September 2024
01/12/2022	This property was purchased on the open market with the intention of adding an extension creating a 5-bedroom home. There have been planning-related challenges which are nearly resolved.	October 2024
13/09/2023	Significant structural issues and complete refurbishment of the property was required. This includes full garden works, drainage work, relocating the kitchen to meet Welsh	April 2024

	Housing Quality Standards and installing a new rear access. Consistent wet weather has led to delays in completing much of the outdoor works.	
4-bed house (1)		
Date became void	Reasons for length of void	Expected date of return
17/01/2022	This property required major works and is now also undergoing a full renovation. The structural work has included adding an extra bedroom (to create a fifth bedroom). This property was due to be handed over this month; however, due to the ongoing bad weather, this has delayed completion of the work slightly.	April 2024

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
(COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)

W30	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Following the unveiling of the James Howells portrait in the Mansion House, what actions will the Council undertake to further promote the heritage of this historic building?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Councillor will be aware that the Mansion House has long been a costly facility to operate and maintain and, in the current financial climate the Administration has found it difficult to maintain its investment in the building when there are competing priorities across the Council. The Administration feels that it is impossible to justify the additional investment required to tackle the Grade II building's maintenance backlog liability.</p>
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For that reason, as the Councillor will be aware, the 2024/25 budget proposals, approved by Council on 7 March 2024, authorises County Estates to undertake a market testing exercise to assess the potential of disposing of the building or granting a long lease which could attract an alternative use for the venue. The Councillor will be aware that this proposal enjoyed overwhelming support from Cardiff residents that responded to the 2024/25 budget consultation. Accordingly, the Councillor will appreciate that the Council is currently focussed on securing the future sustainability and protection of the building.

W31

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

The Council owns, and has been gifted over the years, a significant volume of antiques, including precious works of art. When were these items last valued and can the Cabinet Member provide assurance the insurance value for these antiques is accurate and up to date?

Reply

The Councillor will be aware that the Council has a collection of paintings, artefacts, civic regalia and antiquarian books, much of which is related to local interest. The main items in terms of number and value are collections that are maintained at Cardiff Castle reflecting its historic significance and interpretation for visitors.

Other items held at public buildings have been accumulated over several years. Paintings, artefacts and civic regalia are included in the valuation, with the work undertaken by Mr. A.N. Schoon, Antiques and Fine Art Valuer. Antiquarian books were also valued for the first time for inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and this work was undertaken by Bernard Quaritch Ltd. Both were last valued in 2022/23. Valuations are currently reviewed on a 3-year cycle.

Whilst there may be use of assumptions and judgement, experts in the field are used to support and undertake valuations, with our current fine art insurance policy based on the external valuations undertaken. Accordingly, the Council is content with the accuracy of the valuations provided by its suppliers and we have received no feedback to suggest otherwise.

LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W32

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BROWN-RECKLESS

Can the cabinet member please confirm if they are aware of the obligation to provide statutory information to the Charity Commission in respect of registered charities for which the Council has responsibility, as Sole Trustee or via a Trustee body, and confirm if it is the case that the Annual Return for the Cardiff Further Education Trust (RCN: 525512) was submitted over 200 days overdue last year, and if this was the third time within the past five years where the Council has failed to comply with the timescale for such submissions?

Reply

I am advised that the delay in submitting the Annual Return for the Cardiff Further Education Trust to the Charity Commission was due to concerns that were raised by the Council's Internal Audit Team about the valuation and ownership of Cardiff High School.

There was some uncertainty about whether the current Cardiff High School site on Llandennis Road was held in charitable trust or not, since it was originally the site acquired for Ty Celyn Secondary School. The site of Cardiff High School, as set out in the charity's scheme, was split between properties on The Parade and Newport Road. However, officers involved in the Council's Trust Working Group, having carried out further detailed research, were able to establish that, following the closure of original school sites and subsequent merger, a Deed of Exchange authorised by the Charity Commission established that an equivalent part of the new site on Llandennis Road was to be held for the purpose of the Cardiff Further Education Trust.

Until this matter had been resolved, the Cardiff Further Education Trust was not able to be issued with an audit certificate and this led to the delay in the submission of the accounts to the Charity Commission. For this Trust, the audit certificate is a requirement when submitting the annual accounts to the Charity Commission.

As you are probably aware, a report was considered by the Cabinet on 21 March 2024, which approved the establishment of a Trust Cabinet Committee(s) to consider Trust matters, as well as the establishment of an Independent Advisory Committee.

	I am confident that these new arrangements will assist in improving the Cabinet's awareness of the status and operation of those Trusts where the Council is the sole Trustee.
W33	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR COWAN</u></p> <p>Are there any plans to change the support given to the next Lord Mayor?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council's budget for 2024/25 was approved by Council on 7th March 2024, and included a service change proposal and budget saving of 1 FTE (Grade 6) and a reduction in the hospitality budget within the Protocol Office. This was predicated on refocusing the role of the Lord Mayor as the Chair of Council, together with a streamlined civic calendar to reflect the reduced budget and staff support. As part of this service change, the support arrangements for the Lord Mayor were to be transferred from the Economic Development Directorate to Democratic Services, with additional support being provided by the Council's Events Team. Officers are working closely to finalise the transfer arrangements and the ongoing support for the Lord Mayor in their refocused role. It is anticipated that these changes will be implemented in May 2024 and following discussions with the Lord Mayor Elect.</p>

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

W34	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>What is the length of the waiting list for young people needing to access mental health provision? Please provide an average time from point of referral to point of treatment.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>This is dependent on the level of mental health need and is normally part of health services provided by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.</p>
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To support children and young people with accessing timely care for Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health, the Health Board has established a Single Point of Access to ensure timely processing and triage of referrals, as well as an offer of consultation with professionals.

In addition, the Single Point of Access has developed a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary meeting that is held twice weekly, which is attended by representatives from the Council's Families First and Cardiff Family Gateway Teams, as well as third sector providers like Barnardo's, to ensure that children and young people receive the right support at the right time.

The average wait for a mental health assessment usually fluctuates between 3 and 4 weeks.

The average wait for mental health intervention currently stands at 12 weeks.

The waiting list relating to eating disorders has been eradicated and, since August 2023, children are seen immediately upon referral.

We will, of course, continue to work alongside the Health Board and third sector to improve the offer to children and young people, supporting and benefiting their emotional health and wellbeing.

W35

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES

I have witnessed first-hand the amazing services offered by social services, occupational therapists, equipment providers and care givers. This service is invaluable to people who wish to remain in their home and need additional support to do so. Many older people have never been in a position to need the help of council services and can be unaware that they are there for anyone who needs them. I know it's not easy and is complicated by the fact some services fall under the NHS and others are provided by the Council, many people don't know where to turn for the help they need. Are there plans to improve service accessibility?

Is there anything local members can do to help?

Reply

The Council operates a whole-systems and cross-Council approach to supporting people who need assistance to remain living independently within their homes and communities. A range of services are made available to provide practical and wellbeing support to meet the needs of older people and these services are promoted widely.

It would be beneficial if Members could assist with the distribution of newsletters and promotional materials, potentially through their ward surgeries or via their one-to-one interaction with residents. It would also be very much appreciated if Members could follow the Council's social media accounts and share posts with their followers. Members can also email: agefriendly@cardiff.gov.uk to join the distribution list.

Further details are set out below:

Independent Living Services (ILS)

The Independent Living Service is the first point of contact for all support services for older people, including a wide range of information, advice and assistance to help people remain independent at home and connected to their community. The service also facilitates access to occupational therapy and social work assessment where needed. ILS is accessible through a variety of means for citizens of Cardiff. These include telephone, website, text, via GP surgeries and a range of stakeholders both within the Council and externally. Information and advice is available in a variety of languages through access to language line. Easy read versions of communication materials are also available. These methods help the service to the support available is communicated with as many people in the city as possible. All information and advice is tailored to the needs of the individual, for example; home visits can be offered where a telephone assessment is not deemed appropriate.

ILS works in partnership with the emergency services and third sector organisations to share information, best practice and promote prevention. To support this, the service regularly provides updates and briefings on the services offered. In addition, the service is fully integrated with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB), having a presence in hospital settings where community information advice and assistance is available for patients and clinicians through our 'Pink Army'. Independent Living and Wellbeing Officers also sit on Multi-Disciplinary Teams in GP clusters where they are able to support clinical colleagues and GP patients to find community-based solutions.

ILS prides itself on having a diverse workforce with local and cultural knowledge which supports accessibility, enabling diverse ways of supporting and engaging with minority groups. Recently, ILS linked in with Chai Café at the India Centre to investigate how the service can connect with individuals from the South Asian community who are living with dementia, providing information and advice on services available, and building relationships with this harder to reach group.

Digital Screens in Hubs

Digital screens were launched in Hubs in 2023 with the aim of providing improved health and wellbeing information to visitors. The content is controlled centrally and includes services and information provided internally, across directorates, and from partners such as Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and the Older Person's Commissioner for Wales.

Age Friendly Advice Officers

Age Friendly officers provide an in-person contact point for older people to find out about useful information, services, organisations and advice in Cardiff – for example, how to obtain support living independently at home, information about health screening, where to go for support with employment, how to take part in consultations etc. The Age Friendly Officers provide drop-in sessions within Community Hubs and other community locations and also attend events to improve community awareness of the help available.

Web Presence

- Age Friendly Cardiff: www.agefriendlycardiff.co.uk
The Age Friendly Cardiff website was launched in October 2023. The website features an accessible structure, with useful information for older people including services and support that aim to keep them safe, happy and independent at home. This includes wellbeing support, money advice, staying active and helpful advice and information. The 'Looking after others (Unpaid Carers)' section is for those who care for others by providing informal support and includes information about taking a break, local events, useful organisations and more.
- Dementia Friendly Cardiff: www.dementiafriendlycardiff.co.uk
The Dementia Friendly Cardiff website was launched in October 2020 following extensive consultation and provides an accessible, one-stop-shop to information, advice, support and events to support people in Cardiff to live well with dementia. The website has been promoted extensively including a Cardiff bus stop campaign to improve awareness of this useful tool.

- Hubs and Libraries: <https://cardiffhubs.co.uk/>
The Hubs and Libraries website provides useful information about services, opening times and events. The website offers easily accessible filtering so that customers can find out about activities and groups that interest them at a location that is convenient for them within the network of 21 Community Hub sites across the city. This includes a wide range of activities and events that are particularly appropriate for older people.
- DEWIS Cymru: <https://www.dewis.wales>
DEWIS Cymru is the health and wellbeing directory and information website which provides a single point of access for citizens to local and national services. Dewis supports people to be safe, social and to live well by signposting to services such as financial advice, care services, housing support, Health and third sector organisations. Cardiff has uploaded information on 2000+ services. Within the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region, DEWIS is hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council; however, we now have an officer focused on improving the information in DEWIS that relates specifically to Cardiff within our Community Wellbeing & Strategy Team. Work is underway to expand the reach of DEWIS and make more people aware of this vital resource.

Social Media

Social media is utilised across council services to engage with service users and also potential service users. Teams regularly cross-promote each other's work to increase the reach of engagement. Some of the active social media accounts are listed below:

- Care'Diff
X – @CareDiffTweets
Facebook – DinasGofalCareDiff
- Cardiff Hubs
X – @cdflibraries
Facebook – cardifflibraryservice
- Age Friendly Cardiff
X – @AgeFriendlyCDF
Facebook – Caerdydd Sy'n Dda i Bobl Hyn / Age Friendly Cardiff

- Wellbeing Support Service
X – @Car_Wellbeing
Facebook – CardiffWellbeing

Newsletters

- Age Friendly Cardiff newsletters were launched in June 2022 and are distributed digitally to networks and citizens, as well as via partner networks. Printed copies are made available in all Cardiff Hubs and libraries, day centres, GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospital patient visitor centres and other locations. The newsletters provide information about the many different services and activities taking place in Cardiff, giving older people the chance to find out about the positive work that is happening that can improve their lives.
- A Care'Diff quarterly newsletter was launched in March 2023, which contains news, events and useful information on services that aim to support unpaid carers. Printed copies of the newsletter are distributed to GP surgeries, Hubs and libraries, Care Hubs and other community locations across Cardiff. There has been a lot of positive feedback from unpaid carers and external partners, including carer champions working within primary care.

Outreach events in communities

ILS roadshows take place across the city. Every two weeks, ILS attends a different location, to share information advice and assistance on what's available to empower people to retain their independence. All upcoming events and their location are promoted in advance via the Council's social media and in Community Hubs to help maximise footfall. To date, ILS roadshows have attended 41 venues in the city, including Community Hubs, medical centres, community centres and supermarkets. These events have attracted discussions with more than 410 people.

All teams across services take every opportunity to attend the programme of events that take place throughout the year to promote their services to the public. This has included Dementia Friendly Cardiff Festivals, GP cluster events, Age Friendly Wales Conference, Carers Wales Conference, Public Health Wales events, Healthy Ageing events, Cardiff Tenants Conference, International Day of Older Persons and cost-of-living events taking place in Community Hubs.

Forums and Focus Groups

Cardiff's Age Friendly Forum was launched in May 2023. The Forum is attended by representatives of older persons groups across Cardiff, as well as partners who provide services that are targeted at older people. Consultation, information gathering and sharing is the main purpose of the Forum, with the overall aim of exploring how the lives of older people in Cardiff can be improved. The Forum is also used by teams and organisations to showcase services that can benefit older people so related information can be shared more widely within the city. The Forum meets in-person every quarter and is chaired by me in my capacity as the relevant Cabinet Member and Older Person's Champion.

Next month, ILS will also be holding ageing well focus groups. The service has identified that more of the younger, older persons group aged 55-65 years are feeling socially isolated. By co-producing solutions via focus groups, we want to ensure the solutions provided are sustainable, preventative and help citizens to age well.

Care'Diff

A communications network will launch next month that unpaid carers can join. This will ensure they are kept up-to-date on information that can help them regarding services, financial assistance etc.

Community Hubs: Older Persons Activity Programme

A programme of events and activities takes place within the network of Cardiff's Hubs & Libraries to support older people to remain engaged with their communities. Older people take part in activities such as gardening clubs, Dementia Caf  s, walking sports, Tai Chi, Knit and Natter groups, and Friends and Neighbours groups.

Hubs for All

The Hubs for All project was launched at the end of August 2023 and operates in several Community Hubs within Cardiff. The project provides a care and wellbeing service for older adults living alone and those with age-related illness and low-level support needs.

Wellbeing Support Service

Cardiff Wellbeing Support Service provides a free service, which aims to provide opportunities to help people in the community to feel less lonely and isolated by supporting them to engage in community activities. The service provides one-to-one support to build older people's confidence to get out and about, including activities based on older people's personal interests and needs, such as lunch and social clubs, digital sessions, healthy cooking groups, meditation, and sports activities.

TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING
(COUNCILLOR DAN DE'ATH)

W36	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>Please provide details of S106 funding available for Radyr & Morganstown that has not been earmarked for other projects yet.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Whilst Section 106 monies may not have been allocated to a specific project, they are governed by legally binding documents where the scope of what these monies can be spent on are clearly specified in these legal agreements. I would be happy to ask officers to provide you with information relating to the Radyr & Morganstown ward.</p>
W37	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVIES</u></p> <p>What timeline has Transport for Wales provided on its activity in Morganstown?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Transport for Wales (TfW) has confirmed that the level crossing at Gelynis Farm has been permanently closed due to the increased number of trains that will pass through it per hour as part of the South Wales Metro project. In June 2024, the number of trains running through the level crossing will increase from 12 (6 in each direction) to 16 (8 in each direction). Following the final timetable change when all Metro works are completed and new trains introduced, this will further increase to 24 (12 trains in each direction). Due to this frequency uplift, the level crossing was deemed too dangerous to remain open.</p> <p>TfW has successfully constructed a new ramped bridge over the railway line to provide a safe crossing for the public. This bridge opened in April 2023 and links the community to Gelynis Farm and nearby walking routes. To construct the new bridge and allow access the track, TfW has been utilising a small compound site adjacent to the level crossing. This will continue to be used by TfW over the coming months; however, work to demobilise the site will begin later this year. Following the full demobilisation of the site, TfW will work with the local football club, Radyr Rangers, to provide new changing room facilities for the team and return the site to its former condition.</p>

	<p>In the vicinity of Morganstown, TfW has completed work to install overhead electrified wires and has successfully electrified the railway line that runs through Radyr & Morganstown in advance of the introduction of brand-new trains onto the Radyr line in summer 2024.</p> <p>TfW has also been asked previously if there are any plans to construct a halt station at Morganstown; however, there are no plans to undertake this work as part of the current Metro phase. TfW hopes that the increased frequency of trains on the line will encourage residents to use nearby stations, such as Radyr.</p>
W38	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Will the council confirm that it remains supportive of and committed to a new train station in the Gabalfa Ward as identified by Transport for Wales?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council continues to work with Transport for Wales on new train stations in Cardiff and the proposed new station at Gabalfa is included in related discussions. The delivery of new train stations is subject to business case development work, funding and approvals. The timescale for the preparation of the business case for a new train station at Gabalfa has not yet been confirmed by Transport for Wales.</p>
W39	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>Can the Cabinet member confirm whether the defects in the SUDS on Allensbank Road have been addressed?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The rain gardens on Allensbank Road are in the process of being addressed. Drainage issues have been resolved and wooden bollards to stop parking are being installed this month. Replanting will take place next month.</p>
W40	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR</u></p> <p>In the last 12 months which roads in Gabalfa have undergone speed monitoring and which roads are currently scheduled for monitoring and in what period?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>No speed monitoring has been carried out on roads in the Gabalfa ward during the last 12 months. Monitoring will be undertaken as part of the city-wide review of the first year of the 20mph default speed limit, which is due to be carried out later this year.</p>
W41	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Please can you outline the likely timetable (including anticipated dates) for the stages for the weight restriction TRO on Beulah Road.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council is currently undertaking the appropriate work to create the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) necessary to introduce and enforce the weight restriction on Beulah Road. Unfortunately, creating a TRO is a lengthy and costly legal process. Consequently, the time taken to create a TRO can vary significantly – for example, depending on the complexity of the scheme, the level of objections received, or legal challenge. In view of this, I'm not able to provide you with anticipated dates for individual stages of the TRO process. However, provided no significant delays are experienced, it is anticipated that such a TRO would usually take 6-10 months to be fully delivered.</p>
W42	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>Is the Cabinet Member planning to introduce parking charges in Rhiwbina village local centre, or at the Heol Llanishen Fach shops?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are no current proposals to introduce car parking charges at any of the specified locations in Rhiwbina.</p>
W43	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON</u></p> <p>What consultation will the Council undertake with Rhiwbina residents regarding introducing any new parking charges in Rhiwbina?</p>

	<p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>Should parking charges be considered appropriate for Rhiwbina, then officers would undertake an informal workshop/consultation with local ward members prior to any consultation with residents.</p>
W44	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>From data collected on vehicle use of the High Street Car Park Llandaff, (IF) it is decided to remove the free two hour parking, are we able to confirm what charges are proposed and what additional funds are forecast to be generated in income from this policy?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The proposed charges for the first two hours at Llandaff High Street Car Park will be 50p for the first hour and £1 for the second hour. It is anticipated that this will provide potential additional income of some £31,500 per annum going forward.</p>
W45	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL</u></p> <p>With the proposals to increase car parking charges at Llandaff High Street Car Park, has there been any consultation with the surgery, or impact assessment for patients that use the Car Park that attend the Llandaff Surgery and Pharmacy?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The proposed removal of the free two-hour period was included in the Council's budget consultation, which was undertaken earlier this year.</p> <p>The introduction of charges for the first two hours at Llandaff High Street Car Park will be subject to the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, which involves a full public consultation. Further information on the process can be found on the Council's website at: Traffic Regulation Orders (cardiff.gov.uk)</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in relation to the general principle of removing the free two-hour period as part of the Cabinet's 2024/25 budget proposals. Following the closure of the TRO consultation, any further equality considerations of patients that attend Llandaff Surgery and Pharmacy will be considered as appropriate in line with legislative requirements and council policy.</p>

	<p>The Council is also currently undertaking a review of parking in the wider Llandaff area to help residents and businesses by promoting the turnover of vehicles parked on-street, making it easier for shoppers and visitors to park for a short time to attend local businesses and community hubs. This review is ongoing and the results will be fed back to local ward members in due course.</p>
W46	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS</u></p> <p>Large vehicles, including caravans and motorhomes, park frequently overnight and for extended periods of time on Wild Gardens Road at the north end of Roath Park Lake. Can the council confirm what powers it has to prohibit such parking and to require the removal of these vehicles which often cause obstructions on this road which is heavily used by visitors to the lake and park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>There are currently no restrictions prohibiting overnight parking at this location and the Council does not currently have the powers to enforce obstruction. Civil Enforcement Officers can enforce areas where there are parking restrictions, such as those denoted by signs and lines, including the double yellow lines at the entrance to Wild Gardens Road from Lake Road West. However, any vehicles causing an obstruction should be reported to South Wales Police who have the powers to take action.</p>
W47	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERMAN</u></p> <p>In the report issued to local councillors last year following the council's second consultation on the proposed new Roath Park cycle route and improvements at Roath Recreation Ground, it was stated that it had been decided to locate the segregated cycleway within the field further away from the original planned route along the route of the footpath and that the main reason for this was to "<i>further protect the trees by placing the cycleway outside the tree route protection area.</i>" The report went on to outline some design updates and said that the four current pitches on Roath Rec were being repositioned to accommodate other design changes which included "<i>the alignment of the cycle route further into the playing field</i>". It also stated that</p>

“following sustainable drainage designs to accommodate the cycle route and to address drainage issues within the Community Centre car park, three pitches will be retained.” At no point in this report was it suggested that the loss of one of the pitches would only be temporary. Flyers subsequently distributed to residents in the vicinity of Roath Rec in February this year showed a three-pitch layout on Roath Rec, alongside the words “FINAL LAYOUT”, thereby clearly suggesting that the reduction in the number of pitches would be permanent. On 20 February, I received an email from an officer in Planning, Transport & Environment stating that the reduction in the number of pitches from four to three is to “facilitate the construction period and the pitches will revert back to four pitches thereafter”.

In the light of these conflicting statements, can the council please therefore:

- a. clarify if the reduction to three pitches is to accommodate design changes (including the alignment of the cycle route and addressing drainage issues) or if it is simply to facilitate the construction of the overall scheme;
- b. explain why the explanation given for the reduction in the number of pitches changed between the report issued last year and the email sent to me on 20 February; and
- c. explain how it will be possible to revert to having four pitches when construction of the overall scheme is completed given that the cycle way is to be realigned further into the field than was initially proposed?

Reply

- a. The reduction from 4 to 3 pitches facilitates the latest alignment of the segregated cycle route and the northern path. This has been done primarily to avoid the tree root protection areas following liaison with officers from the Council’s Parks Service. It will also facilitate the construction of the new cycle route and paths in the playing field.
- b. At the time when the secondary consultation report was prepared, the detailed design work was underway and the latest information available at that time was provided within the report that coincided with the need to realign the path to avoid the tree root zones. The email sent on 20th February provided the latest information available when you were contacted.

	<p>c. To allow all 4 pitches to be introduced with the new cycle route and footpath alignments in place, the rugby pitch would need to be positioned at the northern most part of the field in a north to south orientation; followed next (south) by the second pitch, which will be the smaller square pitch (which has been removed), followed by the two football pitches in an east/west arrangement. Once the final alignment of the paths and cycle route has been implemented, the exact positioning of the pitches will be considered by the Parks Service.</p>
W48	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>What is the cost of the new cycle lane cutting up Roath Recreation park?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The current total project cost forecast for the Roath Park Cycleway is £4.7m; the vast majority of which is grant funded via the Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund. This figure includes construction, design and all project management related costs. It is exclusive of risk and inflation.</p>
W49	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LITTLECHILD</u></p> <p>What KPI's are in place to measure the use of Cycle lanes in Cardiff so their effectiveness can be measured?</p> <p>Please provide data of the number of cyclists using Cycle lanes.</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) used to measure the effectiveness of our sustainable transport schemes, including cycleways, relates to the 'Modal Split for All Journeys: Proportion of people travelling to work by sustainable transport modes'. The 2030 target for this is 76% and we aim to meet a target of 58% in 2024/25, as set out in the new Corporate Plan 2024-27. In terms of data showing the number of cyclists using cycle routes in the city, the following data for February 2024 shows usage of the Castle Street and Tyndall Street cycleways:</p>

Cycleway Section/ Direction	Daily Average	12hr Average	AM Peak Average (08:00-09:00)	PM Peak Average (16:30-17:30)
Castle Street - Eastbound	500	307	45	45
Castle Street - Westbound	464	266	24	48
Tyndall Street - Eastbound	54	34	4	6
Tyndall Street - Westbound	129	90	11	13

In terms of monitoring the total number of cyclists before and after implementation of the cross-city cycleway, the following data shows the change in usage between 2019 and 2022:

Road Section	2019 (12hr)	2022 (12hr)	Change
Cardiff Bridge	737	782	+6%
Castle Street/Duke Street	647	760	+17%
Boulevard De Nantes	118	188	+59%
Dumfries Place	374	678	+81%
Newport Road, E of Station Terrace	458	1,312	+186%
Newport Road, E of Fitzalan Road	408	1,121	+175%
Newport Road, E of West Grove	450	626	+39%

W50

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD

What is the council going to do to address increased rat-running and traffic using Clodien Avenue and adjacent residential streets since the construction of the cycleway on Allensbank Road and associated junction changes?

Reply

The Council will undertake monitoring of flows on Clodien Avenue and adjoining streets as appropriate to determine the numbers of vehicles using these streets as a route between Whitchurch Road and Allensbank Road. Officers will aim to undertake this work at the end of the summer period after university students have either arrived in, or returned to, the city at the start of the new academic year.

W51	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Does the council have any enforcement powers against car, bus and lorry drivers who splash surface water over pedestrians and cyclists at the side of the road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Council has no such powers.</p>
W52	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>What is the status of plans to review business parking policy on Whitchurch Road?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>In January 2024, the Cabinet approved a draft City Parking Plan and the undertaking of a full public consultation on the proposals contained in the draft Plan, which is expected to be undertaken in early summer 2024. The City Parking Plan proposes a new framework for managing parking across the city and proposes updates to the Council's parking policies to help deliver these changes in support of the Council's wider 10-year transport plan. As part of the Plan, it is proposed to rollout the business parking permit scheme in areas such as Whitchurch Road. However, in order to ensure a consistent approach to the issuing and enforcement of on-street business parking permits, we need to ensure that the business parking permit scheme works the city as a whole and is supported by robust policies.</p>
W53	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR REID-JONES</u></p> <p>Lisvane was part of the Velocity pot hole repair trial last September. Please could you provide an update on the trial including the number of potholes filled, the total cost and cost per pothole.</p> <p>How do the costs and repair quality compare to more traditional methods?</p>

Reply

The initial post-scheme inspection which was undertaken shortly after the pothole repair trial showed the level of works to be acceptable, with the next inspection due next month. Four electoral wards were treated as part of the trial; however, a breakdown of the number of repairs per ward is not available. The trial delivered 600 square metres of repairs, which was made up of various sizes of defects from single potholes to larger areas of deterioration.

The cost equated to an average £38 per square metre, which is approximately 35% less than a traditional/permanent type repair. However, it should be noted that there are multiple factors that can affect the square metre rates as part of any repairs.

The inspection next month should provide a good indication as to how this treatment is performing, particularly following the extreme weather that we have experienced over the past few months.

W54

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Residents and commuters are sick of 20mph speed limits on key arterial link roads across Cardiff. Can the Cabinet Member take urgent action to reverse the changes to speed limits on Newport Road throughout Old St Mellons by increasing the speed limit back to 30mph?

Reply

The Council is currently carrying out monitoring of the speed limit changes that came into effect in September 2023. The data gathered will give an indication of the impact of the default 20mph speed limit on vehicle speeds/journey times. It will also help the Council to understand the impacts of the changes made last September on roads and routes across different areas of the city.

The data gathered will be reviewed along with public feedback, including requests and comments about specific locations, received via local ward members and through correspondence. Officers will consider any requests and representations made in relation to speed limit changes. This will be a technical exercise that will take account of the data gathered and updated guidance that we expect the Welsh Government to issue later this year.

<p>I can confirm that the request regarding the section of road highlighted in your question has been logged and will be included in the review process, which we anticipate will commence in autumn 2024. If any changes to speed limits are recommended, a Traffic Regulation Order would need to be made, which would be subject to public consultation.</p>
