

CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD
COUNCIL 28 JANUARY 2016

Item 9 – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS

1. Leader Statement (Economic Development & Partnerships);
2. Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement
3. Corporate Services and Performance Statement
4. Deputy Leader Statement, (Early Years, Children and Families)
5. Community Development, Co-operative & Social Enterprise Statement
6. Education Statement
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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

AGENDA ITEM: 9

Cardiff-Stuttgart Twinning Conference

I attended the first day of the three day Cardiff-Stuttgart Twinning Conference that was held at City Hall on 14th-16th January 2016. The conference, which was funded through an EU project, brought together citizens and organisations from Cardiff and from our twin city of Stuttgart to promote the shared history of our two cities and to examine how we can build on our historic relationship to further develop transnational cooperation and civic engagement. It also provided an opportunity to explore different attitudes to European integration and the institutions of the European Union, which was particularly timely in the light of the forthcoming EU referendum. The conference was supported by a programme of cultural events to celebrate our twinning relationship and I'd like to extend my thanks to all those involved in helping to present the very best of Cardiff to our international guests.

Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs

On 18th January 2016, Welsh Water announced that they had secured a 999-year lease on Llanishen and Lisvane Reservoirs. This was welcome news and I am grateful to both Celsa and Welsh Water for their commitment to reaching an outcome that benefits the local community. Celsa will continue to use water from Lisvane Reservoir for its operations in Cardiff Bay and Welsh Water will be able to increase its drinking water resources in Cardiff, while contributing to the economic and cultural development of the city. Moving forward, it is important that the Council works closely with Welsh Water to facilitate public access to the reservoirs for recreational activities.

To celebrate this positive outcome and to recognise the hard work of the Reservoir Action Group, I will be hosting a reception at City Hall from 2-4pm on Friday 5th February 2016. Invitations have been extended to representatives and members of the Reservoir Action Group; representatives of Celsa and Welsh Water; Councillors; MPs and AMs, and the Welsh Government Minister for Natural Resources.

Welsh Cultural Centre – Yr Hen Lyfrgell

I am pleased to confirm that the official opening of Cardiff's new Welsh Cultural Centre – Yr Hen Lyfrgell is due to take place on the morning of Thursday 25th February 2016 and will be attended by the First Minister. That evening, there will also be a launch party, which will lead into a long weekend of celebrations ahead of St. David's Day on 1st March 2016.

**Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the City Council
27 January 2016**

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2016

HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 9

Housing Partnership Project

I was very pleased and proud to attend recently the official signing of the partnership agreement between the Council and Wates Living Space, developer appointed to the Housing Partnership Project. I was truly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment that Wates, a family firm, showed towards the project.

This is truly a first for Wales in both the size and ambition of the project which will not only deliver 1,500 new homes, 600 of which will be council homes, but will also help regenerate brown field sites across the city. The overall value of the scheme is £205 million.

The quality of the new housing has been set high and all the homes will be sustainable and energy efficient, including some to passivhaus standard.

As part of its presence in the city, Wates Living Space has made a pledge to create extensive opportunities for local training and employment and will engage local suppliers and sub-contractors in the project. The scheme will generate almost £14 million of social value including almost 10,000 training weeks, employing hundreds of skilled and non-skilled workers during the construction and marketing of the homes. And will create a lasting economic benefit for the city.

Supporting Independent Living

Over the past year we have significantly improved our services to help people remain independent in their own homes. We have introduced a single point of contact for older person's services, providing a wide range of advice and information with multi-skilled visiting officers available to assist people in their own homes.

I have recently had the opportunity to visit the Independent Living Centre (Smart House) which has been set up to demonstrate a wide range of rehabilitation and re-ablement equipment and to promote everyday living aids that promote independent living.

Built to resemble a two storey home, the Smart House is very impressive and allows people to experience how adaptations such as stair lifts and hoists, look and feel in a domestic setting.

The Smart House is open to residents and partner organisations to book as either a training or demonstration facility.

Welfare Reform Changes

The Chancellor's Autumn statement brought news of further welfare reform changes which will impact on benefit claimants. The proposal was announced that housing benefit for tenants in social housing would be capped at the Local Housing Allowance levels; the level paid for tenants in the private rented sector. While most social housing rents are below LHA levels this change is likely to impact on tenants under the age of 35, who may only qualify for the rent of shared accommodation, and people in supported accommodation where rents can be high. The change is due to come into effect in April 2018, but will be backdated to any social housing tenant who has taken up a new tenancy, transferred or exchanged from April 2016. Only limited information is available about this change at present. Officers are working with our housing association partners to fully understand the possible implications of the change, to develop publicity and a plan to mitigate the impact. A full briefing will be given on this change when more information is available. In the meantime please remember that help is available in all Hubs and in particular in Central Library Hub, where there is a full range of advice available for those affected by Welfare Reform.

Sheltered Housing Tenants' Christmas Party at Butetown Centre

As you will know many older people are alone at Christmas, we were therefore very keen to help bring our older tenants together over the festive period. The Tenant Participation team organised a party for tenants of all 10 of the Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes, guests were able to get to know each other over Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, and were kept entertained with music, dancing and a raffle. Members of the Telecare team were also there to provide information about the services they offer, and explain how they can help more vulnerable residents. The party, which was held at Butetown Centre, proved to be a big success with around 60 residents attending. Tenants from different schemes got talking to each other and friendships were forged. The Tenant Participation team are planning to repeat the event next Christmas.

Support for Asylum Seekers in Cardiff

Many of you will have seen the publicity recently about the services for Asylum Seekers and in particular the requirement for service users to wear wristbands. This is clearly not acceptable and the Leader and I have raised our concerns in a letter to the Minister responsible Immigration.

Services for Asylum seekers are commissioned and managed directly by the Home Office and the council has no direct control over the services provided by the private company employed to provide these services.

However officers from the council do aim to influence these services where they can working partnership with the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership based in the Welsh Local Government Association.

Launch of the Older Person's Commissioner's Ageing Well in Wales Programme

Last week I attended the launch of the Older Person's Commissioner's Ageing Well in Wales Programme, hosted by Julie James AM. It was pleasing to see the work being undertaken across Wales to support the Commissioner's Ageing Well agenda, and I am particularly pleased that Cardiff has developed a clear and effective Ageing Well Delivery Plan for 2016/17.

Following discussion between Council Directorates and with partner organisations, a broad ranging draft Delivery Plan went to scrutiny in September, where we received helpful feedback from Members, from the Commissioner herself and from third sector partners.

We are incorporating this additional input into our final Delivery Plan, which Cabinet will adopt in March, alongside the Council's Strategic Equality Plan for 2016/20.

I'm confident the Plan will enable everyone to continue to enjoy all that Cardiff has to offer, throughout their lives.

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member, Health, Housing and Wellbeing
27 January 2016

CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:9

Review of Voluntary Redundancy Scheme

The annual review of the Council's Voluntary Redundancy Scheme has been completed. Cabinet agreed on 21 January that this would remain unchanged for 2016/17. This decision was based on the fact that the scheme continues to be broadly comparable to that which operates elsewhere across Wales. Cabinet also took into account that in light of ongoing budgetary challenges faced by the Council, it will be important that the scheme continues to attract volunteers. All the Trade Unions stated their clear position that the Scheme should remain unchanged, pointing out the implications of any change should fewer and fewer staff volunteer to leave.

Schools moving to on-line HR Systems

The Council's HR System - DigiGov is now being used successfully in all schools for recording sickness absence and applying the relevant stages of the Attendance and Wellbeing Policy. Schools have welcomed having increased control of absence management as well as the direct access to real time data.

We are now rolling out a training programme for school staff who will then be able to use on-line HR Systems for undertaking contractual changes, exits, requests to extend temporary contracts and also processing overtime requests.

Review of Disciplinary Policy and associated procedures

Following an extensive and inclusive review involving consultation with Directorate representatives, Trade Unions, Equality Networks and Senior Management Team plus input from PRAP, from April 2016 the Council will have:

- a revised and streamlined Disciplinary Policy incorporating clarity of responsibilities for all those who have a role in this process, standardised processes to enable robust and transparent decision making and, a new formal Fast Track disciplinary procedure available for misconduct issues. The policy will be supplemented with provision of robust monitoring data to enable compliance to be monitored at Directorate and Senior Management level.
- 6 new comprehensive guidance documents for those involved in various aspects of the process (i.e. Hearing Chairs, Investigating Officers, Presenting Officers, Managers, Employees and Witnesses) have been produced to supplement the policy to ensure a more consistent approach, and better support for those involved with investigations.

- A new “Resolution Policy” to replace the existing Grievance and Bullying & Harassment policies, with an increased emphasis on early resolution of matters, with managers and Trade Unions involved collaboratively in order to resolve issues at an earlier stage, through a range of resolution methods such as additional training, support, coaching, advice, counselling and mediation. The new Internal Mediation service (within HR People Services) has been expanded, and provisions of the service are detailed in the new Resolution policy

The new arrangements will be subject to on-going monitoring, with an interim review at 6 months and a full review after 12 months operational experience. The revised arrangements represent a major cultural shift in how disciplinary / conduct issues will be addressed within the Council in the future.

Capability Procedure for Teachers and Headteachers

- The Central South Consortium Capability Procedure for Teachers and Headteachers (December 2015) has been developed by HR officers across the five local authorities in full consultation with the trade unions and in line with guidance from the Welsh Government. A separate policy for support staff is being developed.
- It is recognised that the capability and commitment of employees is fundamental to providing a high standard of education to pupils, and that Governing Bodies are committed to ensuring that all employees have the opportunity to develop the appropriate skills, knowledge, competence and aptitude to undertake their roles effectively. In the vast majority of cases, employees meet and exceed the performance requirements of their roles.
- However, in some circumstances, individual employees may experience difficulties in demonstrating the levels of competence required to perform their role effectively. In such situations it is important to have adopted a policy which clearly outlines the procedure to be followed and the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- The Capability Procedure sets out a constructive approach to achieving improved work performance through effective supervision, mentoring, training, performance review and development. It ensures that competency issues are dealt with efficiently in a supportive and sensitive manner within agreed time periods and with clear outcomes at all stages.
- The policy is recommended for adoption by all Governing Bodies.

Income Management Project

On 11 January 2016 we went live with the first phase of a significant income management project. Over the duration of the project we are updating our methods of dealing with all forms of payments including rationalising use of Chip & Pin devices, refreshing our internet e-payments portal and ensuring that the e-payments options will render correctly no matter what type of device payments are being made on. This supports our analysis which shows a significant shift in the numbers of citizens transacting with us via smartphones and tablet devices like iPads compared to the traditional PC users.

Mobile working for carers

We are about to go live with a short pilot, followed by a full roll-out, of mobile and scheduling technology for the Adults Services Reablement team. This will use the same technologies previously deployed to Community Maintenance Services to

enable homecare visits to be automatically scheduled in the most efficient manner possible according to carer location, and for carers to use mobile devices to receive and record their work, removing the requirement for paper schedules and frequent office visits.

ICT Apprentices

As part of our workforce strategy and commitment to developing skills in Digital technologies ICT have this year taken on three apprentices under the corporate apprenticeship scheme. One of these started out as a work placement from the looked after children (LAC) team.

Cardiff.gov.uk/Caerdydd.gov.uk

The Council Tax portal was introduced in December to allow customers the opportunity to check their Council Tax balance, see their instalment dates and also set up or amend their direct debits. Having this facility in place in preparation for the Council's annual billing period is a great step towards customers managing their account at times that suit them without having to call and speak to an advisor.

Parking permits online has also proved to be a success with customer use increasing so that the number of applications made online has outweighed those made by post. In December 1619 applications were made online in comparison to 943 made by post.

A new splash page was introduced using photos taken by the public which have been received via Social Media. The image will be replaced every 6 weeks.

Web Key Stats for December:

- During Dec 2015, visits via a mobile device exceeded desktop for the first time, this is most likely due to residents viewing the changes to services over Christmas and New Year.
- The web received 670k Page views in total from 155k users.
- Recycling and Waste page views up 49% from 84k to 137k.
- 8,890 page views received for the Budget section up 790.78% over November's 998.
- City of Cardiff Councils Twitter has gained an average of 52 followers a day in the last 90 days and now has 52,306 followers.

C2C

In December, for the 2nd month in a row C2C hit the answer rate target every day and achieved a final answer rate of 96.06%. This was from a total of 52,122 calls.

Customer satisfaction remains high with 99% stating they were satisfied with the service from C2C out of 163 surveys and 96% satisfied with the service from the Repairs Reporting Line out of 50 surveys.

Strategic Estates

- On target to deliver circa £4m in capital receipts by year end for the capitalisation programme.

- Lots of activity with the office rationalisation programme with various moves on going including all of the Global Link staff into County Hall. These moves are all set to deliver revenue savings.
- Investment board created following approval from Cabinet, new governance and strategy being implemented to improve the performance of the portfolio.
- Various Community Asset Transfers progressing with a range of community groups, recently completed and imminent CATs include Maes Y Coed community centre, Highfields and Oaks garden nursery, Insole Court and Grange Gardens Bowls Pavilion.
- Progressing various partnership opportunities with other public sector bodies to realise savings and efficiencies, ongoing projects include Global Link assignment of lease to the Local Health Board and Llanishen Police Station project with South Wales Police.

CTS

CTS now have several operatives trained to the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health standard recognised by the HSE for the measurement of equipment subject to Hand and Arm Vibration Syndrome. The service is available to all service areas which includes all the necessary information to effectively manage vibration exposure to operatives in line with the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005.

Councillor Graham Hinchey

Cabinet Member (Corporate Services & Performance)

27 January 2016

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2016

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILY STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:9

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

The new Children's Services Fostering Campaign has received positive feedback since its launch in late September and the number of enquiries received by the team has seen an impressive increase of 310% compared with the same period last year.

It is important to remember however, that we still have staggering number of around 600 children needing foster homes in Cardiff and a target of 300 new carers needs to be fulfilled in order to provide the care, support and homes that are necessary. The current situation means that some children have to be placed outside of the city meaning they have to uproot and move away from their school, friends and communities and sometimes siblings have to be separated.

By providing foster carers in house as opposed placing Cardiff Looked After children with Independent Fostering Agencies, the Council will also make savings on average of approximately £450 per foster placement, per week.

The Foster Team continue to recruit and it is essential that we as a Council support them by promoting and raising awareness of the service in our local wards and communities. The City of Cardiff Council offer competitive financial packages and exceptional support and training opportunities to foster carers.

Whether you or somebody you know could foster a child, or by helping to spread the word about fostering for the City of Cardiff Council, you could help make the difference to a Cardiff child or young person. Please visit www.fostercarecardiff.co.uk to find out more and help support this vital service.

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

Councillor Sue Lent
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member (Early Years, Children & Families)
27 January 2016

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2016

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CO-OPERATIVES & SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE STATEMENT**

AGENDA ITEM:9

IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championship

I am sure that Members will want to join me in welcoming the news that Mo Farah will, subject to confirmation of his selection for the British Team on March 7th, be joining the prestigious competition line up for the IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championship to be hosted in Cardiff on Saturday 26 March 2016

The Olympic champion over 5000m and 10,000m will target the race in front of a home crowd to boost his preparations ahead of the Rio Olympic Games in August. Five-time world champion Farah will make his debut appearance at these Championships.

The Welsh public will get a rare chance to witness one of athletics' global stars competing around their capital city. And even better – together with the elite races Cardiff 2016 also provides a mass race for all level of runners to compete alongside Mo Farah by 'Running in the Footsteps of Champions'. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I would urge everyone to sign-up before the February 29th deadline if they have not already done so.

Grangetown's Brand New Hub Opens for Business

Grangetown Community Hub opened its doors for the first time on Monday 11th January, bringing a broader and improved range of services to the area. The former Grangetown Library building on Havelock Place has been extended and refurbished in order to develop the Hub, so that Council and partner agencies can deliver services from a single location. This will allow customers to engage with the Council more easily, and to access key information and amenities more quickly and conveniently than ever before.

Trained staff are on hand at the new Grangetown Hub to help visitors utilise a full library service, housing and benefits advice, Into Work services, a coffee shop run by BRG Communities First, and a community room. The facility also boasts an IT suite, free PCs, internet and Wi-Fi access, and free phones to contact the Council and other services. Citizens' Advice and Communities First are also available, and there will be visits from further partner organisations to provide specialist help and advice.

The Hub is open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, including a late evening on Wednesdays (10am - 7pm). To find out more about the Hub's services and events visit www.facebook.com/grangetownhub

Rumney Partnership Hub opens this month

The new Rumney Partnership Hub opened its doors on **Monday 23 November**, The new hub, which operates in partnership with Communities First, will provide a range of council and partner agency services including library services, advice and benefit services, public access computers and free telephones, a children's area, multi-use community room and interview room in the former Rumney Youth Centre building on Llanstephan Road.

Story and rhyme time events every Tuesday morning at 11am, as well as job club every Monday throughout the day.

To find out more about the Hub's services and events visit www.facebook.com/Rumneyhub

Roath Library

It is now closes for expressions of interest in the Community Asset Transfer of Roath Library and five bids have been received. Following assessment of the bids from a financial, legal and quality point of view, two bidders have been selected to progress to Stage 2 of the process and have been invited to submit a full business case.

There are Clarification Meetings arranged with the two selected bidders the week commencing 1st February. At these meetings discussions will take place on the requirements from the council in terms of the communal and library space. Additionally, the evidence the council will need to see in their business plan on financing and deliverability of their proposal. To allow time for the organisations to fully investigate, carry their due diligence and submit a fully designed and costed business plan a deadline of 1st April will be given.

At this stage, it is looking positive that a third party organisation will be identified through the CAT process to take on the running of the building and to undertake necessary repair and conversion works. However, either organisation has yet to fully cost this work.

In the meantime, a temporary lease is being agreed our Health Partners to deliver a temporary library from Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Work will now commence in the next couple of weeks to establish a service from this building. It is also hoped that some open access PC provision will also be included in the building and this is currently being investigated.

Further provision has also been put in place at Plasnewydd Community Centre. The YMCA have recently taken over the building through the council's Community Asset Transfer process and through working in partnership some library provision is now being provided. There is a selection of books available and also the council runs Story and Rhyme Time classes every Friday at 10:30.

Cathays Heritage Library

Consultation has commenced on the relocation of the Local Studies service into Cathays Library and establish a 'Heritage Library' while retaining Branch Library provision. I believe that Cathays Library would be a better solution for our customers for the following reasons:

- Well-known and much loved historical community building- Local Studies viewed as a complementary use
- Prominent and accessible location
- Large, inviting space for customers – refurbished in 2010
- Integral meeting room available for use by local groups
- Bank of public access PCs available for use
- Wi-Fi connectivity
- Standard branch library access times – open on Saturdays
- Sustainable solution for Local Studies and Cathays Library

The changes will obviously impact on the services provided in Cathays Library. There is potential to create a centre that will provide effective library and specialist information service to all age groups across Cardiff. Heritage Development is an exciting opportunity to deliver learning activities for citizens making innovative use of available technologies. The Library service is hoping that the creation of a Heritage Centre will allow for collaboration with schools in the development and delivery of a heritage based curriculum support programme. Key elements of Branch Library provision will be retained.

Full details of the proposal as well as a link to the survey can be found at www.cardiff.gov.uk/LocalStudies

Consultation close date: Monday 15th February

Councillor Peter Bradbury

Cabinet Member (Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise)

27 January 2016

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2016

EDUCATION STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:9

The Performance of Cardiff's Schools in 2014/15

We are continuing to build on last year's improvement:

- In certain areas standards are improving at a faster rate than Wales as a whole e.g. Foundation phase and key stage 2
- Outcomes for pupils eligible for Free School Meals are improving at a faster rate than their peers in the primary phase and key stage 3. 4.5% increase in eFSM in level 2 inclusive threshold is greater than 3.5% improvement across Wales as a whole
- At key stage 4 a significant improvement (4.9%) in the level 2 inclusive threshold to 60%. Halving the number of secondary schools where less than 40% of pupils achieve five GCSE's grades A-C, including English, Maths and Welsh from 6 to 3
- Minority Ethnic pupils as a whole at key stage 4 perform at least in line with white UK pupils
- An increase in the number of schools in the highest benchmarking quarter and a reduction in the number in the lowest Benchmarking quarter

But we are not complacent as a LEA and we have a number of areas we are concerned about including:

- Variation in standards by schools with comparable pupil populations in both primary and secondary sectors
- The low performance in three secondary schools which has also had a negative impact on the city's overall attainment, attendance and exclusion figures
- Impact of poverty on standards of attainment: despite improvement in performance of pupils eligible for free school meals the gap remains too wide
- Underachievement of certain groups of learners including some minority ethnic groups, white UK pupils in schools in deprived areas of the city and Looked after Children
- Proportion of young people who are not in employment, education and training
- Good progress was made in reducing fixed term exclusions (Cardiff rate of 1.1 per thousand pupils was below the Welsh average of 1.6 per thousand pupils) but the figure for shorter term exclusions was well above the national average 34.3 per 1000 pupils compared to 26.7 per thousand with 8 secondary schools having exclusions considerably above Wales and Cardiff averages. Since September 2015 2 of the secondary schools are now in line with other

secondary schools with low exclusions and a further four have been successful in reducing exclusions this term

The report also throws up some other issues for example the performance of girls in Cardiff – girls' outcomes are higher than boys in most indicators but the performance of girls does not compare as well with national figures.

Youth Engagement and Progression Strategy – The Cardiff Commitment

This paper gives a clear corporate strategic direction for Cardiff Council and was agreed by the Cabinet to secure a positive destination for every young person in Cardiff after statutory schooling into either employment, education or training working with partners. Alongside the development of the strategy (building on past policy) the council would work proactively to deliver “quick wins” where possible for example with a pilot of a “Junior Apprenticeship Scheme” for 14-16 year olds. We would also review our own Corporate Framework for work experience, work placements, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Schools' Organisational Programme

The provision of additional school places and the improvement of our school buildings is a priority for Cardiff Council and a number of new schemes have had developments over the last two months including:

- **Eastern High School** – planning permission for the new school has been agreed
- **Outcome of consultation on the additional provision of English medium and Welsh medium places in Splott & Adamsdown** - Ysgol Glan Morfa will increase from 1FE to 2FE with up to 80 part time nursery places with the provision of a new standardised 2FE primary school at the Maltings from September 2017. Moorland Primary School will increase from 2FE to 3FE with 96 part time nursery places utilising the vacated Ysgol Glan Morfa buildings from September 2017
- **Outcome of consultation on the additional provision of English Medium and Welsh Medium places in the 4 wards** – Ninian Park Primary will increase from 2FE to 3 FE on its current site from September 2017. A new 2FE Welsh Medium school will be built on the Hamadryad site from September 2017 but a starter school will be established at Ninian Park in the interim. Subject to the approval of the Governing Body St Mary the Virgin Primary School will expand from 1FE to 2FE
- **Outcome of consultation on a new secondary school in the West of the city:** a statutory notice will be published to close Glyn Derw High School and Michaelston Community College and establish a new community High School from 1st September 2017 and to transfer the new school to new build premises on the current Glyn Derw High School site from September 2018
- **Consultation on Specialist Provision for Primary aged pupils with Speech and Language difficulties:** The Cabinet has agreed to consult on re-shaping specialist education and how we can best meet the needs of children. The report also recommended consulting on whether Meadowbank School should be closed from September 2017 and the building used for alternative Additional Learning Needs provision

- **Outcome of consultation Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal:** It was agreed that two one FE schools for each should be built back to back on the current site

Overall over the last two months Cardiff Council has progressed schemes totalling 90 million for the building of new schools in our city through the 21st Century Schools Programme and joint funding with the Welsh Government. A real investment in our children's education.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education
Yr Aelod Cabinet Dros Addysg
27 January 2016

ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 9

Rent Smart Wales

The launch of Rent Smart Wales – Rent Smart Wales launched on 23 November 2015 and is a landmark landlord licensing scheme hailed as UK first being hosted by Cardiff Council. The new registration and licensing scheme will prevent rogue landlords and agents from letting and managing properties in Wales. It will also raise awareness with landlords, agents and tenants of their respective rights and responsibilities.

All new staff were in place on the launch date having completed 3-4 weeks of induction training, documentation to support the processes had been developed and the infrastructure and database required for launch was in place. The marketing campaign, led by Welsh Government, was implemented and publicity included Lesley Griffiths AM and myself visiting Willcox House with press. Further development to the website / database is required post launch to ensure system is fit for next steps in the processing of registrations and licensing applications. A review of the fees set for Agents is also under consideration.

Flat Holm Island

I am pleased to report that officers are making the final arrangements for the submission of an application to Keep Wales Tidy, for Green Flag status for Flat Holm Island. Flat Holm is both a unique and precious resource and I am sure that the prospects of success in securing Green Flag status which recognises the best parks and green spaces in the country will be enhanced through the work that the Council has been undertaking with partners involved in the management and development of the Island.

Victoria Park Splash Pad

The public engagement exercise carried out by the Council for the Victoria Park Splash Pad closed last week and I am delighted that in excess of 1,000 individuals responded, through the exercise two design options were presented and there was a clear front runner that polled 74.7% of the votes. Design staff in parks are working with our project partner to finalise the installation programme and an end of May opening has been targeted.

Apprenticeships

You will recall that last year I provided with you with a number of updates in respect of the introduction of new Apprenticeships within my portfolio, and, as you are aware I am committed to the introduction and development of further schemes that seek to

strengthen and secure the skills base, enhance workforce planning and provide high quality employment opportunities for young people. As the largest employer in Wales I firmly believe that we have an obligation to be leading the way. I am therefore very pleased to report that in recent weeks we have made appointments to, two new schemes within the Parks, Sport & Harbour Authority area, one a Marine Engineering Apprenticeship and one a Business Administration Apprenticeship.

Parc Cefn Onn

Next month will see the submission of the of the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery bid for Parc Cefn Onn and through the Parks for People Funding stream, the bid has been constructed in partnership with a wide range of stakeholder organisations including the Friends of Parc Cefn Onn. The total value of the project is anticipated to be circa 650k and will see a range improvements to the site focused on improving access to the site and its heritage for a wide and diverse range of users. A decision from HLF is anticipated in July.

Leaf Fall

The Cleansing teams have had another successful autumn, working hard to tackle leaf-fall across the city. The teams targeted each ward once a fortnight, visiting those streets with the highest footfall and leaf-fall. In addition, officers and teams responded quickly to priority requests for clearance (i.e. where leaf-fall was making pathways slippery). It was good to see that no complaints were received in October, only 1 in November and 4 in December from the public.

Waste restricting programme

The new waste restricting programme has also achieved its first mile stone. At the end of last month over 100,000 black bins had been exchanged across the City. The next phase is removing any remaining larger bins is also underway and overall we are on track with the project delivery. The recycling tonnages are beginning to increase, with over an extra 1200 tonnes being collected in the last quarter, so I would like to thank the public for supporting the changes and increasing their recycling habits.

Neighbourhood Services City Wide Roll Out

As you may already be aware, the Neighbourhood Services Project has been successfully piloted in the South West, West and City and South Neighbourhood Partnership areas since July last year. Due to the success of the project, we are now expanding it city wide to include the East, North and South East Neighbourhood Partnership areas. The project is being expanded city wide with immediate effect. In order for us to properly measure the performance of the service, we would be grateful if you would direct all of your enquiries regarding **cleansing, environmental enforcement or parks cleansing/litter issues** to C2C@cardiff.gov.uk from now onwards. This is designed to enable true measurement of the successes and for us to fully capture all of the trends and issues, and, most importantly enabling a quicker operational response to you and our resident's needs.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)
27 January 2016