

COUNCIL, 25 JUNE 2020 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT (COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUDSON</u></p> <p>What was the outcome of the case of the 7 arrested waste operatives & the 1 outsider?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>I can confirm that the Police investigation is still ongoing.</p>
W2	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WOOD</u></p> <p>Given the impact on the international recycling markets of the Covid-19 crisis, what is the council's expected loss of revenue for 2020-21?</p> <p>Which, if any, materials are consequently unable to be recycled and how will the council deal with these surplus materials?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>A significant number of recycling markets have actually improved during the Covid-19 pandemic, including those for paper and cardboard; whilst others have remained consistent.</p> <p>The one recycling market to falter has been textiles. This is due to outlets not accepting recycled materials due to ongoing markets being closed. The Council is working with outlet providers to optimise when we release textiles and their ongoing management. This market has only a limited impact on our recycling performance.</p> <p>Due to changes in waste collections during the Covid-19 crisis, there has been an increase in disposal costs, and therefore a reduction in income of £205,629. There have also been increased costs of £116,112 for third party processing of recycled materials since the Council closed the Material Reclamation Facility. Further costs in both these areas are currently being finalised and the Council will look to recover any losses by making claims for Covid-19 related costs to the Welsh Government.</p>

W3	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FORD</u></p> <p>Green garden waste bin collections need to be collected once a fortnight due to more residents in Cardiff doing more gardening due to Covid-19. When will this be implemented?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>We will be looking to reinstate fortnightly garden waste collections from 6th July 2020.</p>
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CULTURE AND LEISURE
(COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

W4	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DIANNE REES</u></p> <p>I understand that children’s play areas and outside adult exercise equipment has been taped off to prevent their use in Parks. Could you please tell me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any plans to allow their use in the next few weeks? 2. What sanitizing processes are in place? 3. Will outdoor foot operated hand/equipment sanitizers be available in the parks/open spaces? <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>On Friday 19th June, the Welsh Government announced that all outdoor sport and leisure facilities, with the exception of playgrounds and outdoor gyms, were allowed to open from the start of this week. As a result, all of Cardiff Council’s outdoor tennis courts, basketball courts and MUGAs (Multi-Use Games Areas) are in the process of being re-opened following safety inspections and provision of new signage.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to re-open play areas and adult exercise areas in the next few weeks and the Council will follow Welsh Government guidance on this matter. We anticipate that the re-opening of such facilities will be one of the latter measures to be implemented as lockdown restrictions are further eased in Wales, given the levels of use, number of contact points and the high risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.</p>
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The re-opening of play areas presents a range of challenges, particularly in relation to social distancing and cleansing, which have been acknowledged by leading organisations in the field, including Play Wales and the Association for Public Service Excellence. The Council is currently developing a detailed recovery plan and the re-opening of these facilities will not be simultaneous, but will be undertaken on a phased basis, over time, ensuring that there is a fair and equitable distribution of access to re-opened facilities across the city.

Under normal circumstances, the only time that play equipment would be sanitised is if it was soiled or graffiti was present. The scale of the provision is such that any additional cleansing measures would be impractical.

There are also no plans to install foot operated public sanitisers in our parks and open spaces owing to the high level of use of these facilities. Users will be required to ensure that they make their own arrangements in respect of hand sanitising before, during and after their visit.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS **(COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)**

W5

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HOPKINS

In the reports for scrutiny and cabinet, reference is made to the concern that the number of young people at risk of being not in education, employment or training will rise significantly during the current crisis. What specific steps is the administration taking in partnership with Further and Higher Education, training providers and employers to respond to this challenge?

Reply

Through the Council's well-established Cardiff Commitment partnership, which includes business, schools, young people, Further and Higher Education partners, investigations are underway to identify additional opportunities to support young people that are leaving school this summer.

	<p>School Leaders are working with us to identify any young people leaving Years 11 and 13 this year (and any Year 12 pupils that may drop out of Sixth Form), to enable support mechanisms to be put in place. One-to-one support is also being made available via mentors and advisers from the Youth Service, Into Work Services and Careers Wales.</p> <p>Education officers are participating in the Economic Recovery Group being led by the Chief Executive to consider and develop proposals to extend the range of options that can be made available for young people this year. This will include consideration of options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable easily accessible information portals for young people to seek education, training and employment opportunities in Cardiff; - Retain some Year 11 leavers in education through Post 16 provision; - Collaborate with city partners to promote apprenticeships and traineeship positions; - Introduce volunteering schemes with accredited learning to improve employability skills for the future; - Strengthen pathways to training and employment in keyworker sectors where labour market demand remains (e.g. Care, Construction, Digital); - Increase online learning options, with key partners such as the Open University; and - Explore national schemes that may be brought forward to support job seekers post crisis.
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LEADER
(COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

W6	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARKHILL</u></p> <p>How many Council Environmental Health Officers are currently being utilised as part of track and trace?</p> <p>How many more Council employees are being hired/cross-trained as part of this initiative and what are the latest number of cases that have been successfully tracked under this scheme in Cardiff?</p>
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Reply

The organisation of contact tracing teams is the responsibility of partners within a Health Board regional area and the Welsh Government requires a consistent all-Wales approach. Cardiff Council has agreed to host the service for the Cardiff and Vale region, in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Vale of Glamorgan Council and Shared Regulatory Services.

The partnership is seeking to repurpose staff with the right skills and expertise into contact tracer or advisor roles and there are currently 4 Environmental Health Officers from Shared Regulatory Services working within a team of over 100 staff as part of the Cardiff and Vale Test, Track & Protect operation. These staff have been repurposed from within the organisations that make up the partnership and, as the service expands, we will continue to take on additional staff across all disciplines based on modelling against a number of scenarios and, of course, depending on the number of positive Covid-19 cases.

Cardiff Council has trained 33 repurposed staff and has 15 support staff in place who are supporting the initial set up phase.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
(COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)

W7

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBSON

Due to Coronavirus, more local journeys are currently being made on foot or by cycle. What consideration has recently been given to altering the traffic lights at the 'Monico' crossroads (the junction of Ty Wern Road and Ty'n y Parc Road) to allow pedestrians to cross all four roads?

Reply

The Council's City Recovery Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet on 11th June 2020, sets out a bold set of initiatives to support both active and sustainable travel and to enable social distancing as lockdown restrictions are relaxed. Encouraging active travel is a key element of the plan.

Our priority is to deliver the projects specifically identified within the strategy as quickly as possible; however, I would agree with you that there is a need to improve this particular junction for people travelling on foot and by bicycle.

Making changes to the signals at this location will require investigation and there may also be a need to undertake traffic modelling. I will ask officers to carry out an initial investigation to assess the potential for making changes to this junction, as well as any detailed design work that may be required, the cost implications and the likely timescale for implementation.

As you may be aware, this junction has been investigated previously and there are provisional plans to implement a permanent improvement to crossing facilities at this location as part of our future programme. Delivery of such a scheme would require funding from Welsh Government.

W8

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DRISCOLL

During the Lockdown, there's been a marked reduction of traffic. I welcome the actions taken to tackle speeding, temporary segregation and active travel measures. Also, you have very kindly shown me the plans to install yet more infrastructure in Pontcanna on Penhill Road and Cathedral Road where you are the ward member. These proposals include new crossings, upgrading existing crossings, new cycling infrastructure and pedestrian improvements. Residents in Llandaff and Danescourt will be asking how much is this costing and why is this being done ahead of other schemes close to the proposed major housing developments at the BBC and Rookwood sites in Llandaff, where there is a desperate need for this type of infrastructure investment?

Reply

The scheme you refer to is part of the North West Transport Corridor plan, part of our LDP strategy. Bus improvement measures are to benefit the whole city. If we want to reduce the number of cars driving through areas such as Llandaff, then bus travel needs to be efficient along the whole route.

The A4119 is a key bus corridor linking central Cardiff with areas in the north-west of the city. The scheme will provide a bus lane that will give northbound buses priority over general traffic at a key pinch point on this section of the A4119. It will also deliver improvements and increase safety for people travelling on foot and by bicycle.

The scheme on Penhill Road complements bus priority improvements implemented at other locations on the A4119 corridor in recent years, such as the bus lane on Cathedral Road and the bus lanes on Llantrisant Road between the junction of Bridge Road and the Danescourt roundabout. These schemes enable buses to bypass queuing traffic on the approaches to key junctions.

The combined impact of these improvements and future bus priority measures on the A4119 will be to reduce bus journey times and improve journey time reliability, thus making bus transport in the city a more effective and attractive travel option.

Further bus priority improvements are planned on the A4119 corridor, which will deliver additional benefits in terms of bus journey time savings and improvements to journey time reliability. These measures are to be funded through developer contributions arising from the major housing developments in north-west Cardiff.

As you are probably aware, the funding for these improvements is triggered at certain stages of the build out of the development sites and the schemes can only be implemented once the funding becomes available. The developer contributions relate specifically to works on the A4119 between the Danescourt roundabout and the Plasdŵr development and on Bridge Road in Llandaff.

As well as bus improvements, developer contributions have also been secured for cycling facilities connecting to Plasdŵr. These will include a segregated cycle lane along the A4119 Llantrisant Road between the Danescourt Roundabout and the junction of Llantrisant Road and Bridge Road. As with the developer funding for bus priority measures, the funding for the cycling facilities is tied to a specific phase of the housing site build out.

W9

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SANDREY

When will equality impact assessments be carried out for the proposed social distancing schemes?

Reply

An overarching Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in support of the high level Recovery Strategy for the city, which identifies, at an early stage, the potential impact of the proposals on all protected characteristic groups and informs our consultation and engagement on particular elements of the Recovery Strategy.

It is important to note that this is a living document, which is subject to amendment and will need to be regularly updated as a result of any changes to Welsh Government directions and guidance as lockdown restrictions are relaxed further, particularly in terms of social distancing requirements. It will also need to be amended as a result of the programme of engagement that supports the implementation of the Recovery Strategy.

In addition, we will be undertaking individual Equality Impact Assessments for each component of the strategy, as necessary, to identify any potential impact, both positive and negative, on each of the protected characteristics. In order to do this, there has been regular engagement with a number of disability and age-related advocacy bodies in recent weeks.