

Agenda Item No.

Question No. 1

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR R.J. BERTIN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

WASTE CHANGES

I fully understand the need of this Authority to save money and improve recycling rates. Given the recent problems experienced and waste bags being left for days on doorsteps, does Councillor John agree that recent changes to our waste collection services could have been handled better, and will he ensure that better and more information will go out in future before any changes?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE LEADER

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO WELSH GOVERNMENT

At its meeting on the 30th of November 2015 the then Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Cabinet be requested to make three separate written representations to Welsh Government on the following:

The additional costs incurred by the Council as a result of the UK Government's introduction of the National Living Wage and the requirement for domiciliary care providers to pay travel time.

The fact that the Social Services and Well Being Act was not cost neutral and that the Council has incurred substantial additional costs as a result of the introduction of this Welsh Government legislation.

The fact that the Council now has to fund much of the integration agenda in view of the cessation of RCF and the transfer of the ICF to health boards, and that the Council is also having to fund elements of the Supporting People Programme.

At its meeting of the 11th of January 2016 the then Deputy Leader commented that Cabinet was mindful of the concerns raised by the then Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) and that Cabinet would make representations to Welsh Government on these issues. It was resolved that the Leader would raise the following three separate representations with Welsh Government:

- The additional costs incurred by the Council as a result of the UK Government's introduction of the National Living Wage and the requirement for domiciliary care providers to pay travel time.
- The fact that the Council does not anticipate that implementing the Social Services and Well-being Act will be cost neutral, given the range of additional responsibilities accruing from the new legislative framework as a whole, including regulations and codes of practice.
- The fact that the Council has lost from its budget the integration finance previously made available by Welsh Government.

Did you make these three separate representations to the Welsh Government and are you able to share with Members the response of the Welsh Government?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PENARTH

In May 2013 the Cabinet took a report on "The future of St. Paul's Church" after a community consultation exercise. In September 2013, I asked you a number of questions and in your various responses you promised a "full options appraisal". In March 2014 Cabinet took a further report entitled St Paul's Church Penarth - Way Forward and I assume this took into account your 'full options appraisal'. It was recommended:

That authority is granted to market an opportunity for the use of St. Paul's Church, Penarth for community/recreational uses or as a mixed use scheme including community/recreational uses and other appropriate uses, subject to the relevant planning processes and the approval of the Leader; Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Culture and Sport Development; Managing Director, and the Director of Development Services;

That authority is granted to appoint property agents and other consultants as may be required to assist with the delivery of the project.

It is now well over two years since the Cabinet Report. On the 18th of July 2016 the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee took a report on the 'Closure of Accounts 2015/16'. At Appendix 2 there is a line in the 'Capital Monitoring' for St. Paul's Church which states that there is £16,000.00 for and I quote 'Reviewing Strategy', which has not been spent. At the same meeting the Committee also took its usual "Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report" and at Appendix 4 under "Capital Monitoring" St. Paul's Church again appears. There is £233,000.00 allocated and in the comments it states: "Legal Strategy currently being implemented in accordance with the Board".

We are now well over three years down the line. Are you really seeking to resolve the future of St. Paul's Church or have you decided to continue to kick the issue "into the long grass" and leave it for the "New 2017 Administration" to take the necessary decisions?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

NEW SCHOOLS

Members will be aware that Ysgol y Deri is a new school that the Council built to bring together three schools in the area, Maes Dyfon, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn and Ashgrove School. Ty Deri is the residential provision for the School. It provides an extended curriculum for up to 19 children and young people aged between 6 and 19 years of age with autistic spectrum conditions and children and young people with complex needs. It provides opportunities for weekly boarding and respite short stays for children with a statement of special educational needs and assessed for placement by the Vale of Glamorgan.

CSSIW inspected the residential provision on the 8th of October 2015 and reported that:

- *“The young people and staff do not enjoy the stability of an efficiently run boarding provision because it lacks clear operational management structure/arrangements.”*
- *“The young people are looked after by staff, who do not receive regular supervision and support.”*
- *“There is not a unified format used for supervision and the deputy manager has not undertaken training to provide supervision.”*
- *“There was no evidence of the governing body monitoring the welfare of young people*

In regard to Ysgol y Deri, more recently BBC Wales reported that “concerns over working practices” at the school have triggered an independent review of the institution by Peter Watkin Jones who carried out the high-profile inquiry into mortality rates at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. BBC sources stated that there were serious “issues over staff sickness-levels and low morale” at Ysgol y Deri, and there have been allegations of “confusion over leadership” and a “lack of consistency” in the care of pupils.

I am now advised that you may be intending to close the residential provision.
I have a number of questions:

How much did it cost to plan, build and staff the residential provision ‘Ty Deri’?
I am aware that members of staff have been made redundant at ‘Ty Deri’.
How many members of staff have been made redundant and how much has this cost the Council?

Question 4. contd

Can you confirm whether or not you are intending to close the residential provision?

If you do close the residential provision where will parents turn for Monday to Friday boarding during term time if their children have autistic spectrum conditions or complex needs?

If you do close the residential provision where will parents turn for short term respite stays for children with a statement of special educational needs?

If you do close the residential provision can you explain why the Council built it only to close it a couple of years later?

Who was responsible for the business plan to build the residential provision and who is going to take responsibility for its abject failure should the provision close?

Are you satisfied that the low staff morale and the lack of consistency regarding the care of pupils at Ysgol y Deri have been resolved?

Are you satisfied that the 'Leadership' of the School is able to cope with the demands of running a 'Special School' such as Ysgol y Deri.?

And finally, and in the interests of transparency and openness, will you share the Peter Watkin Jones Independent Review of Ysgol y Deri with Members by placing a copy in the Members' Room?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE LEADER

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY PLAYING FIELDS

On the 23rd of May Cabinet agreed to lease the Peterston-Super-Ely Playing Fields to Peterston-Super-Ely Community Council. In late July the Community Council has still not heard from the Vale Council. However, as a result of the efforts of the Cabinet Member a draft lease was sent to the Community Council on the 4th of August; well over two months after the Cabinet's instructions. The lease was finally signed off by the Community Council on the 13th of September. However, at time of writing, the work to dedicate the land as a "Field in Trust" has yet to be completed. On the 9th of June Planning Committee agreed that enforcement action should be effected on the "Land and Buildings at Hendrewennol Fruit Farm". Some six weeks later the enforcement notice had still to be served. I was advised by the Planning Department that the notice was still with the Legal Department. After a little bit of pressure the notice was eventually served on the 27th of July. These two small examples are issues that I have been involved with recently. If similar delay is taking place across every other "Council Ward" and if there is corporate legal work experiencing comparable delay; then I would suggest to you that the Council has a problem. I have three questions:

Do you feel that the Legal Department has sufficient lawyers to deal with the volume of work?

Do you feel that the Legal Department is operating in an efficient, effective and timely manner?

Do you not agree that delays in completing relatively straightforward legal documentation reflect badly on the Council?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

COUNCIL UTILISED OFFICE SPACE IN BARRY TOWN CENTRE

What assessment has the Council made of the impact upon Barry Town Centre of reducing Council utilised office space in the centre of town?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY
SERVICES

IMPACT OF CHANGES IN WASTE COLLECTION TIMETABLES

What assessment has been made of the impact of the changes in waste collection timetables implemented in August 2016?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

WELSH GOVERNMENT REGENERATION FUNDING

What discussions has the Cabinet Member held regarding the continuation of Welsh Government regeneration funding after the completion of the current Vibrant and Viable Places programme?

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FROM COUNCILLOR A. RILEY

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

REFUSE COLLECTION

The changes to waste collection routes since 1 August have not been without teething problems. Will the Executive Member disclose the projected savings resulting from these changes for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 under each of these headings: a) staff costs; b) fuel and other transport costs: and c) number of refuse vehicles required?

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FROM COUNCILLOR A. RILEY

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

POSITIVE MESSAGES ABOUT INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS

The Executive Member may be aware of a recent initiative in Cornwall where a new book using images of children who have Down's syndrome has been produced in a partnership between Cornwall Council and Cornwall Down's Syndrome Support Group. The book, called, "Going to School" is aimed at three and four year olds and is being given by Cornwall Council to every rising school age child in their BookStart Treasure Pack to help promote a positive message about inclusion in schools. Is she prepared to consider something similar for the Vale of Glamorgan?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

2016 RESULTS

We have heard about the improving GCSE and A level results across the Vale. This is indeed very good news. However the situation in each individual school indicates a more varied picture.

In reality there are areas where the results are still unsatisfactory. Will you comment where you consider more focus is required to improve educational standards?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND INWARD INVESTMENT

RESERVES

Will you indicate the level of allocated and unallocated reserves held by the Council on 31st March, 2016? Further will you state where this considerable sum is invested?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

PRESSURE ON CARE HOMES AND THE DOMICILIARY CARE SECTOR

Members will be aware of the calls for urgent action regarding the pressures on care homes and domiciliary care sector. Can you indicate the situation in the Vale?

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FROM COUNCILLOR S.T. WILIAM

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PARKING CHARGES

Visitors to Barry Island are charged £1 for an hour but must then pay an astronomic £5 for anything over that time.

This acts as a deterrent to visitors and a disincentive for those who would otherwise stay on in our cafes after having walked their dogs.

The current structure punishes our traders and harms our local economy.

Isn't it time to implement a more reasonable and economically literate parking charge structure that would entice people to stay on the Island and spend their money?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

FTE EMPLOYEES

What was the number of FTE employees across Cardiff, Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan working in Regulatory Services on 1 April 2014 and 1 April 2016, before and after the merger of the services?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

BBC WALES REPORT

BBC Wales recently reported that one of our social workers was struck off for falsifying visiting information. Can the Cabinet Member confirm how this was uncovered, when this was first brought to their attention and what action was taken by this Council?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

HOUSING COMPLETIONS

How many housing completions have been made in each year since 2011, what is the total number of completions for the period 2011-16 and what percentage does this represent of the proposed LDP total for 2011-26?