

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE AND LEISURE SERVICES

WELSH GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENT BILL

I understand that the Welsh Government's Environment Bill aims to make all shops, schools, offices, factories, restaurants, building sites and hospitals sort their recyclable wastes separately. This would involve paper, card, glass, plastic, metal, food and wood, which would all be banned from landfill sites. Have you had an opportunity to comment on this part of the Bill and do you support these proposals?

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TO THE LEADER

COMPENSATION PAY OUTS

Over the two years, 2013 – 2014 and 2014 – 2015, this Council paid out £1,120,528.00 in compensation claims. This is a substantial sum of money. Are you able to reassure Members that all the claims were properly considered and not of a frivolous nature? I ask this as I understand that Newport Council paid £375.00 to a cyclist who was riding his bicycle on a footpath when apparently his face came into contact with some nettles.

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TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES

OLDER VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

The 'Older People's Commissioner' has said that more than 30,000 people over 60 in Wales are victims of domestic abuse. What is the Council doing to support older people here in the Vale who may be victims of domestic abuse?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SCHOOLS

EDUCATION AT HOME

How many children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan are educated at home?

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TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SCHOOLS

YSGOL Y DERI

Can you explain why things have gone so very badly wrong at Ysgol Y Deri?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE LEADER

REDUCTIONS IN CAPITAL AND REVENUE FUNDING

You will be aware, I know, that the First Minister has been forced to apologise to Assembly Members after his Government sold publicly owned land, including Upper House Farm Rhoose, for far less than these parcels of land were worth. You will also be aware, I suspect, that the Welsh Government spent 52 million pounds to purchase Cardiff Airport, despite clear and unambiguous advice from KPMG that the airport's value was between 20 and 30 million pounds. Does it not make you angry that, whilst the Welsh Government is squandering tax payers' money 'as if there is no tomorrow', the Vale of Glamorgan Council is having to make very difficult decisions over the future of the services that it delivers as a result of significant reductions in Welsh Government capital and revenue funding?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.J. BERTIN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN LIBRARIES

Can the Cabinet member please give us an update on the position with regards to the amount of interest expressed from volunteers in running our libraries?

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FROM COUNCILLOR J.W. THOMAS

TO THE LEADER

SPENDING OF RESERVES

I understand that Carmarthenshire County Council intends to spend much of its reserves prior to any reorganisation of Local Government so that the people of Carmarthenshire can benefit. Are you tempted to pursue a similar strategy?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SCHOOLS

LIFELONG LEARNING

You will be aware of the report that about 26,000 children are at risk of leaving Welsh primary schools unable to read to an acceptable level over the next five years.

The "Read On. Get On." coalition, which includes the 'Save the Children' Charity, said decisive action must be taken and that 10,000 of these children would be from poor backgrounds who must be allowed to fulfil their potential.

There are calls for more investment in the early years' teachers, including specialist support and encouraging parents to help with their children's reading.

Will you indicate what additional resources will be given to Vale Schools to tackle this worrying situation?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

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TRAFFIC ISSUES

In the approved Local Development Plan it is noted there is a need for substantial improvements to the highways network and public transport. These included 15 Corridor Improvement Schemes include Pontypridd Road, Port Road West near Tesco, Cardiff Road, Broad Street all in Barry and Windsor Road, Penarth.

In addition, around 20 Junction improvements are highlighted, including Cardiff Road/Murch Road, Leckwith Road/ Pen y turnpike Road Dinas Powys, Weycock Cross/Port Road Barry, A4055/Sully Moors Road, Gladstone Road/Broad Street/Gladstone Bridge roundabout, Port Road/Colcot Road roundabout in Barry and Cogan Hill/Approach from Terra Nova roundabout, Penarth.

Will you indicate what progress has been achieved in carrying out these vital improvements?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

HOUSING/PLANNING

The Vale Council is reporting that over 500 additional affordable homes are required across the Vale every year to meet their assessment of housing need.

The waiting lists indicate a demand for 368 houses and flats in the Dinas Powys, Llandough and Penarth areas. The biggest demand is for one bed properties, with over 200 bids for these sized dwellings. Council will be aware of the approval of over 130 new properties in Dinas Powys and a further 70 along Sully Road, Penarth. Will you indicate if you intend to allocate more development sites to provide additional housing in the Dinas Powys, Llandough and Penarth area?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.J. WILLIAMS

TO THE LEADER

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION

I understand that a new National Infrastructure Commission has been created, chaired by Lord Adonis. In an invitation to a Summit meeting, an email to me points out that it will be, 'offering unbiased analysis of the UK's long term infrastructure needs.' It goes on, ' It will recommend to the government before next year's Budget what should be done in economic and transportation terms to transform east-west connectivity between the northern cities by road and rail as well as advising on priorities for future large-scale investment in London's public transport infrastructure such as Crossrail 2.' Members will note the absence of any Welsh content.

What will this Council be doing to put pressure on this body to consider our greater needs for financial help as, if you journey by road across the UK, as I have done, you could not fail to see how poorly this Country has fared in comparison to it's neighbour.

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY

BEDROOM TAX

This April marks three years since the introduction of the bedroom tax. How many families are paying the bedroom tax in the Vale of Glamorgan currently, compared with at the point of introduction?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE AND LEISURE SERVICES

CAR PARKING CHARGES

When do you plan to make an announcement about whether the Cabinet will or will not introduce 'phase one' car parking charges for town centre car parks in Barry and Cowbridge as they agreed on 27 July 2015?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE AND LEISURE SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL FINES ISSUED

How many fines have been given out for environmental offences, such as littering, dog fouling etc. in each year since 2011?

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TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

TOURIST INFORMATION BOARDS

How frequently does the Council review the tourist information provided to residents and visitors in noticeboards in the Barry area?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SCHOOLS

HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING

How many instances of homophobic bullying were recorded by schools in the Vale of Glamorgan in each of the past five years, and what action has been taken by the council to prevent homophobic bullying in educational settings since I raised this issue in March 2013?

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TO THE LEADER

CLOSURE OF BARRY CROWN POST OFFICE

What consideration has been given to the Council providing post office facilities if Post Office Ltd are unable to secure alternative appropriate private sector facilities following their closure of Barry Crown Post Office?