

Mark Drakeford AM was unwell so a written report was provided. Cllr Peter Bradbury was also unable to attend so the membership report was postponed to the next month.

Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council: We were pleased to welcome Huw who talked about the Council's current projects and progress against manifesto commitments. He covered the following topics:

- Progress on the bus station (discussions on the best use of the space are ongoing, likely start of April, work with the Metro Development Partnership which involves the Council, Welsh Government and the private sector)
- Indoor Arena (plans for a 15,000-capacity arena in Cardiff Bay to complement Metro plans to reduce the distance between the centre and the Bay through tram or train routes)
- Central Square Development and Central Quay (plans for development south of the train station with the potential for 20-25,000 jobs)
- Train station development (feasibility study to increase capacity with investment from the City Deal)
- Educational investment- 21st Century Schools Programme will develop Cantonian and Fitzalan schools in Cardiff West alongside others across the city, 3% increase in school budgets)
- Housing (plan to build 2000 council homes within the current Council term, 24% of all house build plans granted permission in 2017 were affordable)
- Capital funding (£10 million for cycling infrastructure and cycle hire scheme, park and ride routes and a forthcoming green paper on air quality)

Huw then took questions on the following topics:

- Bus station (concerns around lack of green space and street lighting)
- Homelessness (£800,000 has been allocated, dramatic increases seen since 2010, large amount of provision, Council prepared for Universal Credit rollout, plan for an All Member meeting on the issue)
- Traffic problems in North West Cardiff around Llantrisant Road (plans on hold waiting on Metro procurement, this may result in additional train or tram links, bio rapid transit routes were still being considered)
- Support for Haringey councillors (Huw stated that he had signed the letter of support because he did not feel that the NEC has the authority to intervene in such matters)
- Future cuts (Huw felt that they had managed the budget process well this year but were required to make £90 million worth of savings over the next three years, having made £145 million worth of cuts over the last five years)
- Waungron Rd plans (it is still intended to use the site as a transport interchange)
- Private landlords (this was the role of Rent Smart Wales which is hosted by Cardiff Council)

- Capital borrowing (there was a need for prudential borrowing to invest in infrastructure)

Kevin Brennan MP- Kevin discussed a number of issues and events, including: rough sleeping in Cardiff, the need to develop the Waungron Rd site, plans for the opening of Cardiff West High School in 2019, developments at Windsor Clive primary school, the discontinuing of the Leveson inquiry, an update on Brexit and the meetings of the JMC, which Mark had been attending on behalf of the Welsh Government), support for the UCU strike and condemnation of President Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel. Kevin was supported by the GC in his agreement with Jeremy Corbyn not to jump to immediate conclusions regarding the chemical weapon attack on former Russian citizen Sergei Skripal and his daughter, stressing the need to generate clear evidence before making decisions. He also drew members' attention to a planned event to commemorate Rhodri Morgan to take place in Parliament the following Monday. Kevin then took questions on: the need for music teaching in schools (Kevin reminded members of the party's manifesto commitments to arts education), the need to combat party factionalism and unresolved questions around the Irish/Northern Irish border.

It was agreed to write to Cabinet Member Caro Wild to inquire as to plans for Waungron Rd.

SHA Elections: The Chair reported that he had been re-elected to the SHA committee alongside Women's Officer Alison Scouller. The Secretary reported that she had voted for the candidates suggested by David and Alison with the backing of the EC.

SHA Document: This document (a suggested way for GCs to interact with elected members) was agreed without dissent; proposer Alison Scouller stated that Cardiff West GC is already working to best practice in this area.

Deputy Leadership Election: The Secretary reminded members that the ballots for the election were due to go out on 19th March, with forthcoming hustings events in Newport and Swansea. The position and actions of Unite were discussed and members were reminded that trade unions and affiliates are able to send their own covering letters with ballots.

OMOV Campaign Report: The Chair updated members on the outcome of the 2nd inter-CLP meeting, where CLPs across Wales remain resolute in their intention to campaign at Welsh Labour conference to reverse the WEC's decision on this matter, with motions and a conference fringe planned.