

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
11 July 2024**

<p>1</p>	<p>Councillor Will Thomas</p> <p>In relation to Minute 27 - Councillor Questions (Q6).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What percentage of Schools or even better which Schools opted out. 2. Explain the meaning of 'this is not the normal for Wales'. 3. Comprehensive schools are using 'interest access accounts' why are Primary Schools not? Have they been trained / advised? If not, can they be. 4. Can Schools choose to move their Bank Accounts from Lloyds Bank. <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All schools currently hold an individual banking contract with Lloyds bank. 2. We are one of the minority of local authorities that offer schools cheque book management (this means schools have their own delegated bank account in order to make purchases/receipt income). In most other local authorities schools use the central financial systems. 3. Permission has been given from the S151 Officer for all schools (regardless of sector) to have higher interest savings accounts with the caveat that these must be instant access accounts. Schools can be reminded of this facility in the Education Newsletter in September. 4. Schools can make a decision to change banks but must seek approval from the S151 Officer prior to doing so.
<p>2</p>	<p>Councillors James McGettrick & Peter May</p> <p>In relation to Minute 28 - Councillor Questions (Q1).</p> <p>James McGettrick – when would the 20 new operatives be employed.</p> <p>Peter May - whether the recent Traineeship Programme had been a success and how many were retained to become permanent Waste operatives.</p> <p>Responses of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</p> <p><u>James McGettrick</u> Interviews for the 20 new positions have been completed and appointments are being made as quickly as possible. If the successful candidate is employed via the Staffline agency, we would expect their start of employment to be within a month. Start dates for the other successful candidates may take several weeks longer, should they need to work a notice period with their current employer.</p> <p><u>Peter May</u> We have taken on 66 trainees since 2018, offering 60 of them full time contracts at the end of the traineeship. 56 of the former trainees are still with us, the majority in Waste Collections and a few at the Baling Plant.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Councillor Jeff Jones</p> <p>In relation to Minute 28 - Councillors Questions (Q6)</p> <p>Whether the Council had any financial liability to the Copr Bay project and if so, to what extent.</p>

	Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism

The delivery of the CoprBae district including the Arena has been a great success and a catalyst for further regeneration of the city. The Council recognised that to protect its asset a maintenance provision would be required. In November 2019, Cabinet agreed to creating a CoprBae Budget that receives revenue generated from the scheme and this is used for the maintenance of the CoprBae district. Revenue is obtained from commercial lettings and CoprBae car parking income. This budget provides sufficient coverage for future maintenance and a sinking fund for replacement of equipment and is monitored regularly.