

# **Keeping Cardiff on the up**

**Manifesto from the  
Cardiff Liberal Democrats  
for the 2012 local elections**



**Welsh Liberal Democrats  
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



## FOREWORD

### BY COUNCIL LEADER RODNEY BERMAN

In 2004, the residents of Cardiff threw a deeply unpopular Labour administration out of office. Fed up with Labour's failings on basic services, their tendency to put themselves first ahead of the needs of local people and an average yearly council tax rise of 11%, people in Cardiff rightly wanted a change.

Under Labour:

- Cardiff's social services were condemned as the worst in England and Wales.
- Our streets were ranked as the dirtiest of any city in England and Wales.
- A large percentage of the city's population did not have access to a kerbside recycling service, and those who did were charged for the privilege of using it.
- Our schools were some of the poorest-funded in Wales.
- School buildings were suffering from a £50 million repair backlog with no plans in place to address it.
- The council's Labour leader, Russell Goodway, became the highest paid councillor in England and Wales.
- £2.5 million of councillors' allowances were paid out unlawfully, something Labour refused to accept, leading to the council heading for a high court battle with its own District Auditor. And because Labour councillors stubbornly refused to accept the council might have been wrong, a huge legal bill of £5 million was run up at local taxpayers' expense.



The Liberal Democrats offered a fresh start and a firm commitment to put the needs of local people first. We became the largest party on the council at the 2004 elections and strengthened our position further at the 2008 elections. Between 2004 and 2008 we ran the city as a minority administration, and since 2008 we have been the senior partner in a coalition administration.

We have delivered many service improvements throughout the past eight years. We quickly set about overhauling our social services, with clear improvements soon being recognised by Welsh Government inspectors. This led to the special measures that were imposed on the council when Labour was still in charge being lifted.

We have increased funding for Cardiff's schools year on year, repeatedly protecting them from efficiency savings. Under Labour, schools were at one point the second-lowest funded in Wales. Latest figures show they are now the second-highest and are receiving £313 per pupil above the average spend across Wales. We have also invested heavily in school buildings. We are part way through delivering a £180 million programme of school building improvements and have secured funding for a future school building improvement programme of £137 million. In line with increasing demand, we have overseen the largest expansion of Welsh-medium education in Cardiff's history with five new Welsh-medium primary schools having opened and a new Welsh-medium high school due to open later this year.

We have also significantly invested in making Cardiff cleaner and greener, employing extra street sweepers and litter enforcement officers to keep our streets clean. In our first term of office, we abolished the charges previously imposed by Labour on people who wanted to recycle. We also expanded kerbside collections of dry recyclable waste and garden waste to every street. In 2008, Cardiff became the first city in the UK to provide a weekly kerbside collection of food waste for every street, and last year we moved from fortnightly to weekly collections of dry recyclables. These changes have had a dramatic effect on our recycling rates. Under Labour, Cardiff was only recycling just 14% of its household waste. We are now recycling 54% and have become one of the leading recycling cities in the UK.

In the last eight years, our city centre has been transformed and we have also delivered key regeneration projects around the city in local communities. The new St David's Shopping Centre, complete with the largest John Lewis store outside London, was the largest shopping centre to open anywhere in Europe in 2009 and our new Central Library has won many awards for its impressive architecture and environmentally-friendly design. Both The Hayes and High Street/St Mary Street have been greatly enhanced by pedestrianisation schemes and our new city museum, The Cardiff Story, has been judged a great success during its first year of operation. The International Sports Village has moved forward with the delivery of the Olympic-sized Cardiff International Pool and Cardiff White Water, a white-water rafting and canoe slalom centre. We have recently awarded the tender for a new twin-pad ice rink and indoor ski slope and are also taking forward plans for an indoor surf centre.

We worked with Cardiff City FC on the delivery of the new Cardiff City Stadium and assisted Glamorgan County Cricket Club in bringing their ground up to International Test Match standard, helping them to bring an Ashes Test to the city in 2009. As part of the deal for the Cardiff City Stadium, we also delivered a new athletics stadium and the House of Sport indoor training facility.

The last few years have seen a shift in emphasis in the council's transport policy towards promoting more sustainable forms of travel. We delivered a new park and ride facility at Pentwyn as well as Pont y Werin, a pedestrian and cycle bridge linking the International Sports Village with Penarth. We have also invested in more bus priority measures and have allocated a greater proportion of the council's transport budget for cycling facilities, undertaking the delivery of a new strategic cycle network. In partnership with Bristol and Swindon councils, we successfully lobbied to secure a UK Government commitment to electrify the Great Western mainline between Cardiff and London by 2017.

As well as delivering the new Central Library, we have rebuilt or refurbished many branch libraries across the city – a major turnaround from the dying days of the previous Labour administration when plans were being drawn up to close branch libraries. We have also delivered a major refurbishment of Western Leisure Centre, and have agreed plans for refurbishments of Eastern, Fairwater and Pentwyn Leisure Centres. Significant investment has also been made in Bute Park in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has delivered many new facilities, including the Summerhouse Kiosk, the restoration of the Animal Wall, the new Nursery Education and Training Centre and a new tearoom and toilet block at the West Lodge. Across the city, a significant number of other parks have achieved Green Flag status and we have refurbished many children's play areas as well as creating new ones.

Many improvements have been made in local communities. For instance, we have delivered improvement schemes in a number of local and district shopping centres, delivered housing renewal schemes in Adamsdown and Grangetown, and are currently helping deliver two major regeneration schemes in Butetown. We also provided more funding for smaller-scale regeneration projects which have been delivered in local communities across the city. In our first term, we worked with the local police to deliver a network of additional police community support officers and more recently we have introduced alley gating schemes in various parts of the city to help in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Graffiti has also been tackled by the establishment of the council's graffiti teams, and we have introduced an out of hours' noise nuisance service.

All of these ongoing improvements have been achieved whilst still delivering much better value for money for local taxpayers than under Labour – even in the most financially challenging of times in recent years. Indeed, we have delivered the lowest average yearly rise in council tax of any local authority in Wales throughout the last eight years. We have achieved this by driving through efficiencies in all areas of the council's work and cutting out millions of pounds of wasteful spending that we inherited from Labour. Over the years, we have steadily cut spending on areas like employing external consultants, hospitality, councillors' allowances and conference expenses, the use of agency staff, a top-heavy management structure, unnecessary administration and bureaucracy and inefficient systems of working. Having found so many areas of inefficiency during the last eight years, it really is scandalous to think that

Labour previously increased council tax bills by an average of 11% a year prior to 2004 whilst continuing to waste so much of our money.

We have achieved a great deal in the last eight years, but there is still much to do to continue taking the city forward and continuing to deliver the service improvements that local people want and deserve. Rest assured that the Liberal Democrats still have plenty of good ideas as to how we can make our city and its local communities even better, ensuring Cardiff remains a capital of which all of Wales can be proud. Our city must continue to flourish as a quality-of-life capital that is cleaner, greener and safer and delivers local taxpayers value for money. And to achieve this, the Liberal Democrats are again putting forward an ambitious programme at these elections with a very clear aim – keeping Cardiff on the up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodney Berman', with a long, sweeping underline.

**Rodney Berman**  
**Liberal Democrat Leader of Cardiff Council**



# Our six key pledges to the people of Cardiff:

- Continue to keep council tax rises low, building on our record of delivering the lowest average rise of any local authority in Wales over the last eight years.
- Bring new jobs to the city by taking forward plans for the new Central Business District and Conference Centre, and delivering the new Central Bus Station.
- Invest £44 million in resurfacing roads and renewing pavements across the city over the next five years.
- Establish a 'man-in-a-van' scheme in every neighbourhood to improve action to deal with issues such as dumped litter, graffiti and the co-ordination of repairs.
- Help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by delivering more alley gating schemes.
- Drive up educational standards in schools and continue to ensure our schools are amongst the best funded in Wales.





## Financial Matters

Over the last eight years, the Liberal Democrats have worked hard to keep council tax low. We believe that the council tax is an unfair tax because people on lower incomes have to pay a higher proportion of their money in council tax. We know that higher council tax impacts upon poorer people and the elderly the most – so we have always made it a priority to keep rises as low as possible.

Cardiff has seen the lowest average council tax increase of any council in Wales during the last eight years – just 2.7%. Council tax in Cardiff is also £200 lower than in neighbouring Labour-run Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The money available to the council to spend is falling each year, in real terms. The Liberal Democrats have been preparing for the challenges that the council's finances will face. Our approach has been to meet this challenge by finding efficiencies and changing the way we deliver services. That is why we have been able to improve services and keep council tax low.

The Wales Audit Office, the government body charged with monitoring the performance of councils, has said that the council's "finances are managed effectively" and that "the Council's budget has been well-managed in recent years". We will continue with our plans to improve services and cut costs – enabling us to keep council tax down.

*We will maintain Cardiff Council's strong financial position by:*

- Delivering value for money, building on our record of reducing the average annual council tax rise from 11% under Labour to just 2.7% under the Lib Dems, the lowest rise of any local authority in Wales over the last eight years.
- Continuing our five-year transformation programme which is targeting to save the council a cumulative £144 million that can be re-invested in frontline services.
- Ensuring every employee is able to reach their potential through investing additional money in the Cardiff Academy to help all staff gain new skills and therefore enabling the authority to gain maximum benefit from its workforce. We'll also work with trade unions and staff to further prioritise robust action on reducing sickness absence amongst staff.
- Helping people access council services more easily (and cheaply) by developing a Cardiff app for smart phones. We'll also work with Cardiff Bus to ensure their services are integrated with this app.

## Economic Development

Our vision for a fair, sustainable and prosperous city is one with a modern economy, based on a thriving business sector, at the centre of a city-region of huge potential. We believe that an imaginative council can help boost jobs in Cardiff and create a vibrant future for the city.

*We will support the private sector to create modern jobs by:*

- Developing the Central Business District which will see £60 million of public investment in Cardiff and lever in more private investment. This project will create thousands of new jobs. We also want to build on the Enterprise Zone that will cover this area to attract further inward investment.
- Pursuing options for a major Conference and Convention Centre in Cardiff, which could bring a £46 million boost to the city's economy each year.
- Ensuring that the new BBC production centre in Cardiff Bay acts as a catalyst for Creative Industries across the city.
- Unleashing a new wave of green jobs in Cardiff through exploring the establishment of a Green Business District, possibly in the east of the city, and by using the UK Government's Green Deal programme to create jobs by improving home energy efficiency.
- Delivering the Cardiff Innovation Centre. This £12 million facility will create a partnership between Cardiff University and the council to create modern, hi-tech companies based on the research from the university.
- Continuing to argue for the localisation of business rates and the implementation of innovative funding streams so the council can invest in large-scale development, especially Tax Increment Financing to support the new business district.

*We will also act as a strong advocate for Cardiff as the centre of a wider economy by:*

- Arguing for a city-region approach to regional planning and economic development, so that we can work together with other councils across south Wales to develop a more competitive economy.
- Lobbying the Welsh and Westminster Governments for better transport links to Cardiff, including: electrification of the Valleys Lines network as the first step towards the development of a South Wales Metro; direct rail-links to both Heathrow and Cardiff International Airports; and ensuring Cardiff is part of a future high-speed rail network linking the UK's major cities.
- Continuing funding for Cardiff & Co, the company that promotes Cardiff to national and international audiences.

*We will support businesses in Cardiff to adapt to the current economic challenges and then to expand by:*

- Maintaining the Cardiff Capital Fund that provides loans and equity stakes to small businesses in order to keep people in work. This fund has already invested £800,000 in businesses, helping create over 500 jobs.
- Improving broadband connections across the city by putting free wi-fi into the city centre and developing high-speed broadband. We'll also install wi-fi in our schools and tackle existing broadband hot-spots.
- Making it easier for local businesses to bid for council contracts through the Source Cardiff initiative – a trailblazing approach to procurement that supports small, local businesses.
- Establishing a Local Enterprise Forum to bring together businesses, sixth forms and colleges, the council, the university and other key economic drivers in Cardiff to develop ideas for helping boost the economy.

## **Housing and Communities**

Everyone in Cardiff deserves affordable, warm and dry housing for them and their family. Liberal Democrats have successfully been investing in improving the quality of housing across the city and have been so successful that they are now able to invest in new council houses. We will only tackle the high cost of housing in Cardiff by increasing the number of homes available in Cardiff. This will bring prices down.

Since 2004, the Liberal Democrats have invested in affordable and quality housing in Cardiff. We will reach the tough Welsh Housing Quality Standard ahead of schedule, meaning that council housing across Cardiff is now up to the standard expected in the 21st century. We have also invested in affordable homes across the city.

*We will ensure that people have access to suitable, affordable housing by:*

- Building more affordable houses. Because we have successfully managed our housing commitments over the last few years, we can invest in building new homes. Alongside partners, we will build 1000 new homes, of which 40% will be affordable.
- Undertaking a survey of empty properties in all communities in Cardiff and helping the owners bring them back into use. This will provide more homes whilst reducing the need for new developments.
- Offering incentives to people who live in homes that are too large for them to downsize, freeing up extra family homes.
- Continuing the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme that helps young people cover the cost of the

deposit on a mortgage and get a foot on the housing ladder.

*We will improve the quality of the housing that already exists in Cardiff by:*

- Meeting the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the 2012 deadline.
- Retaining the council's housing stock under council control.
- Tackling fuel poverty across Cardiff by implementing the Green Homes Strategy which will bring together a number of funding streams to improve the energy efficiency of homes for people in fuel poverty. This will include over-cladding 'no-fines' properties and investing in the efficiency and appearance of iron and steel housing. This programme will also reduce carbon emissions.
- Improving the quality of student and shared rented housing by extending the successfully implemented additional HMO licensing scheme that we introduced in the Cathays ward to the Plasnewydd and Gabalfa wards.
- Reviewing the council's leaseholder policy to ensure that repairs carried out to buildings with shared spaces are fair to all residents.

*We will invest in making all the communities in Cardiff attractive, vibrant and safe by:*

- Establishing a neighbourhood warden programme, similar to Newcastle Council's 'man-in-a-van' scheme, where specific individuals will be allocated to particular communities to carry out simple council house repairs, report graffiti, clean up broken glass and other tasks to make local communities cleaner and safer.
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour across the city by using targeted interventions, neighbourhood management and promoting community safety services.
- Installing more alley gates across a wider range of areas in the city.
- Minimising the number of young people who enter the youth justice system by working with partners to reduce youth offending.
- Increasing the area in Cardiff that is covered by 'No Cold Calling Zones', where cold callers are specifically forbidden from selling goods or services. We'll prioritise areas with high proportions of elderly people.
- Investigating the possibility of extending the operating hours of the council's out-of-hours' noise nuisance services, aiming to make it a 24/7 service.
- Implementing a 'Night Time Economy' strategy which focuses on reducing crime and promoting successful businesses.
- Continuing to invest £400,000 each year into regenerating local shopping centres to make

sure they are vibrant and prosperous. We'll also review how we can offer free or low-cost parking for customers who want to shop in their local shopping centres, as we have already done in Llandaff, by employing measures to better deter long-stay and commuter parking in areas in areas intended for shoppers to park.

- Investing further in local community regeneration schemes, including the two on-going regeneration schemes in Butetown and the Maelfa Centre in Llanedeyrn.
- Implementing the council's local environment quality strategy to improve the feel of local areas, ensuring a further crack-down on litter, dog-fouling, graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping.
- Reducing fly-posting by working with the advertising agencies and venues involved to discourage it.
- Increasing the number of allotments and developing a Code of Conduct for allotment owners to make sure they are well-used.
- Planting more trees in local communities, making areas more pleasant and helping biodiversity.
- Examining the possibility of creating a 'Green Flag'-style scheme for streets that meet certain targets for cleanliness, safety and supporting the community.

## Education

When Labour last ran Cardiff Council in 2004, council spending in schools on each pupil was at one stage the second lowest in Wales. Now, thanks to the Liberal Democrats, it is the second highest. Cardiff spends £313 per pupil more in schools than the Welsh average. We are also undertaking a £180 million programme of investment in school buildings, with a further programme worth £137 million to come, and are delivering the largest expansion of Welsh-medium education provision in Cardiff's history.

We value the unique role that education plays in making Cardiff prosperous and ensuring everyone can achieve their full potential. We have consistently prioritised funding for education in our work on the council, which is why Cardiff's spending in schools is now the second best in Wales.

As well as this, Liberal Democrats in the National Assembly have managed to force Labour to increase spending in every school in Cardiff – starting with extra funding for the pupils from the poorest families. Every school in Cardiff will receive an extra £450 for every pupil who receives free school meals. Schools across Cardiff will receive over £4 million this year thanks to the Liberal Democrats.

We will maintain higher-than-average levels of funding for schools in Cardiff and ensure that the new pupil premium is on top of council funding – not instead of it. Because we have succeeded in increasing the amount of money that schools in Cardiff receive, we are able to focus on improving our schools in other ways.

*We will further improve the quality of education in Cardiff by:*

- Further targeting support at improving literacy and numeracy across Cardiff. Literacy has been improving in recent years, but numeracy still needs extra support. We will also work with local schools to deliver the tough targets for educational attainment that have been agreed with secondary head teachers as part of a commitment known as the 'Cardiff Ambition'.
- Setting targets for improving attendance and reducing bad behaviour in the classroom.
- Further investing in school buildings as part of our modernisation programme. We will also invest in new IT facilities so that our children can have access to all the equipment needed to learn important modern skills.
- Continuing our investment in Welsh-medium education across Cardiff, as well as promoting it as an option to families that would not previously have considered it. This will also include further improving the range of Welsh language play opportunities.
- Continuing investment in ensuring that children with special educational needs receive a quality education.
- Developing a 'mentoring strategy' for schools, where pairs of schools work together so that better performing schools can help improve results in poorer performing schools. This would include monitoring performance, sharing best practice and pooled provision of specialist teachers. If this is successful, we will consider delegating budgets to these clusters and increasing the role of the clusters in planning.
- Targeting more effectively school improvement services by focusing on schools that need this help in order to improve their performance.

*We will ensure our young people are equipped with the skills they need for work by:*

- Developing a strategy to cut the rate of unemployment amongst Cardiff's young people and reduce the number who are NEET (not in education, employment or training), building on the NEET investment and action plan we are currently delivering with partners.
- Improving youth engagement by giving more children the chance to participate in local democracy and nurturing their citizenship.

- Continuing to support the role both sixth forms and FE colleges play in providing post-16 education, focusing on improving standards and seeking to retain sixth forms in those parts of the city which have them.
- Listening to the voices of employers when planning for further education, including making sure sixth forms and colleges are represented on our proposed Local Enterprise Forum.

## Health and Social Care

In running the council, one of our top priorities is and will be the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. It is a measure of a civilized society that we are able to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm, neglect and abuse. Our commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our communities is demonstrated by the new appointment of a Safeguarding Manager.

Since taking control of the council in 2004, we have emphasised the need for flexible and personal care packages for residents. We believe that people's care should be provided where possible in their own homes and not in an institutionalised setting. We also want to give people more power to choose how they receive their care – in a way that is suitable for them.

When the Liberal Democrats took control of Cardiff Council in 2004, our social services were deemed to be the worst in England and Wales. Since then, we have brought them back to the standard the people of Cardiff expect.

*We will ensure excellent health and social care are provided to people in Cardiff by:*

- Allowing people to retain their independence when they receive care from the council by investing in initiatives to preserve that independence such as promoting direct payments, investing in tele-care and further developing the 'extra care' model for residential homes.
- Supporting re-ablement teams to help people return to their homes or stay in their homes for longer.
- Trialling an apprenticeship programme for staff in social care to help address the problem of a shortage of suitably qualified staff.
- Providing better support and information for carers, and especially young carers. We will aim to identify every carer in Cardiff and deliver better support programmes, including respite opportunities.
- Identifying children in schools who have care requirements or special needs earlier, and referring them to social workers. We are also concerned about the high numbers of excluded

children who have additional learning needs and will seek a compulsory appointment with a social worker for all excluded children.

- Supporting 'good neighbour' schemes across the city to offer support to elderly or vulnerable people.
- Promoting a healthy city by raising awareness of the problems caused by obesity, stress, alcohol and tobacco and instead promoting healthy lifestyles and good nutrition. We will also embed healthy urban planning in the Local Development Plan.
- Working with partners to prioritise reducing the gap in life expectancy and other health inequalities that exists between different parts of the city.

*We will ensure that social care from the council is reliable and efficient, freeing up resources for frontline services by:*

- Continuing to work with the Local Health Board (LHB) to further reduce delayed transfers of care ('bed-blocking').
- Working closely with the LHB and other councils in south Wales, through the South East Wales Improvement Collaborative, to develop a regional network of specialist service providers which will improve services and cut costs.
- Ensuring we strike a balance between appropriate levels of care and cost-effectiveness.

## Transport

Good transport links are essential for economic development and for creating equality. Without access to good roads and public transport, people cannot get to work or access public services. We are committed to improving travel into and around the city as part of our vision for a modern Cardiff. We also want to make it easier for people to use sustainable forms of transport.

*We will improve roads and pavements in the city by:*

- Investing £44 million over the next five years in resurfacing roads and renewing pavements. This includes additional funding to be spent annually so that we not only improve the standard of roads and pavements across the city but also maintain them at this higher standard in years to come.
- Abolishing charges for the first resident's parking permit in the household.
- Introducing 75% residents' parking in priority areas of acute parking demand where residents support this introduction.
- Ruling out the introduction of a congestion charge during the next council term.
- Increasing the number of grit bins across the city to help residents when the weather is poor.

*We will improve public transport in Cardiff by:*

- Delivering a new central bus station as part of our plans to redevelop the central business district. Our proposals will enable a doubling of the number of local bus services that use the central bus station, allow the bus station to remain open during major events such as international matches at the Millennium Stadium, remove the need for buses to be re-routed on Friday and Saturday nights and provide better integration with Cardiff Central railway station.
- Continuing to ensure that the council's future transport plans concentrate on promoting more sustainable forms of transport.
- Developing a Bus Rapid Transit system that will give certain buses quicker routes and more defined stops. This will also include improving bus priority on the A470 and western corridor.
- Campaigning to ensure Cardiff is not left out of any future high-speed rail network linking the UK's major cities and for direct rail links to Heathrow and Cardiff airports. In addition, having helped secure a UK Government commitment to the forthcoming electrification of the Great Western mainline between Cardiff and London, we will also campaign for the electrification of the South Wales Valleys Lines and the development of the South Wales Metro.
- Working with Cardiff Bus to allow online topping-up of 'iff' cards and installing top-up machines in community facilities such as libraries.
- Further expanding Park and Ride provision across the city especially for visitors from the north and west, where necessary by working with neighbouring local authorities.
- Pursuing the Personalised Travel Planning Project with Sustrans Cymru which is intended to provide half the city's households with information and advice about how to travel around the city more sustainably.

*We will improve cycling and walking in Cardiff by:*

- Continuing to expand the city's cycle network over the next four years so that cycling around the city becomes easier and safer.
- Establishing more secure cycle storage in the city centre and district shopping centres across Cardiff so that people can feel more confident leaving their bikes for a few hours.
- Continuing to promote cycling in schools.
- Seeking a new operator to run a cycle-hire scheme, to replace the scheme formerly run by OYbikes.

## **Environment**

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing this generation and every part of the country has the

responsibility to do its share to tackle it. Our vision for Cardiff is one where our economy and public services operate in a way that helps ensure our environment is viable for the next generation.

When Labour was in charge of Cardiff Council, residents had to pay for recycling and it was not even available to some people. After eight years, the Liberal Democrats have ensured that recycling is now available for free to everyone in Cardiff. We've also introduced city-wide food waste recycling. These changes have been embraced by residents, and, as a result, recycling rates have now reached 54% – well above Welsh Government targets.

*We will continue to ensure that sustainability and action to combat climate change remain at the heart of the council's agenda by:*

- Taking forward the council's 'One Planet City' strategy which aims to provide a long-term reduction in the city's ecological footprint so that Cardiff is only using its fair share of the world's resources by 2050.
- Continuing to deliver on our plans to for a 60% reduction by 2018 in those carbon emissions that the council is responsible for, including from council buildings other than housing.
- Implementing the Green Homes Strategy which will include drawing up plans to install energy-efficiency measures in up to 20% of the 130,000 homes in the city.
- Continuing to work towards a 26% city-wide carbon reduction target agreed as part of the council's commitment to the EU Covenant of Mayors.
- Exploring the potential for developing hydro-electricity on the River Taff by building facilities on the river's weirs, as we are currently looking to do at Radyr Weir.
- Developing wind turbines on the Severn Estuary foreshore.
- Installing solar PV panels on council buildings to generate energy and reduce fuel costs.
- Developing a sustainable Local Development Plan that, as far as possible, protects green space on the edge of the city.

*We will continue to increase the proportion of our waste that is recycled by:*

- Delivering more post-sorting of refuse brought to household waste recycling centres so that as much of this waste as possible can be recycled.
- Improving bulky waste re-use, enabling suitable old furniture to be reconditioned for re-use rather than disposed of.
- Exploring opportunities to expand recycling from commercial premises. This will include investigating using bye-law powers to require businesses to

recycle food waste properly but also making sure the service is available easily to them.

- Focusing on helping people to minimise their waste so that they can put less in their black bags or black bins. We will also use increased education and enforcement to ensure the new bin day arrangements are successfully supported.
- Working with landlords to improve recycling rates in student areas.
- Expanding the 'Get it out for Cardiff' scheme, which puts on additional collections in student areas at the end of the summer term, to the Christmas and Easter breaks as well.
- Looking at opportunities to offer wheeled bins to further areas in the city where residents want them.
- Delivering sustainable waste treatment and reducing the carbon impacts of the management of the city's waste by developing organic waste treatment for green garden waste and food waste and working with neighbouring authorities to develop a regional approach to residual waste.
- Continuing to deliver the council's existing waste management strategy, which runs until 2016, and setting ambitious recycling targets for 2020 and 2025.

*We will make sure that Cardiff is clean and tidy by:*

- Maintaining our investment in street-sweepers, tackling graffiti and stopping fly-tipping. We'll also use our neighbourhood wardens to identify and remove these environmental crimes and keep our city cleaner.
- Reviewing fully the way our street-sweepers operate to improve provision and further raise recycling rates.
- Improving the council's systems for unblocking drains and cleaning out gullies, particularly in areas of high leaf fall.
- Cleaning up the banks of the rivers in Cardiff.
- Taking tougher action to make occupants of houses aware of their responsibility to keep their front gardens tidy, including allocating extra resources to tackle this problem.
- Installing new litter bins across the city where they are needed and ensuring wherever possible that new public bins have a separate section for collecting recyclable waste.
- Making sure we maintain high-standards for open space and street design across Cardiff through a comprehensive environmental open space and street scene design.

## **Culture, Leisure and Sport**

Cardiff has a distinguished heritage of which it can be proud. As well as this, Cardiff has a thriving cultural and artistic scene. These help create a strong sense of

identity, help regenerate communities and provide an economic boost to Cardiff, and we want to see them continue to be supported for the next council term. As part of our commitment to restoring Cardiff's heritage, we have introduced a fund to protect the city's heritage. We have also refurbished or rebuilt Penylan, Cathays, Grangetown, Splott, Llandaff North, Rhydypenau, Llanrumney and Fairwater Libraries, as well as delivering the multi-award-winning new Central Library. In addition, Western Leisure Centre has been completely refurbished and we have plans for further refurbishments at Fairwater, Eastern and Pentwyn Leisure Centres.

We believe that Cardiff has a special responsibility as the capital of Wales to promote a modern Welsh culture. That is why we have emphasised the need for greater support for the Welsh language in Cardiff and successfully hosted the National Eisteddfod in 2008. It's also why we have supported and enhanced the annual St David's Day parade. We will build on this work during the next council term.

*We will secure a sustainable future for our libraries by:*

- Continuing to improve the council's library buildings, including finishing the refurbishment of Radyr Library and progressing the refurbishment of Canton Library.
- Extending the Community Hub concept that brings advice services from the council and other agencies into the heart of local community libraries, following successful pilots in St Mellons and Llanrumney. We will create new Community Hubs in communities throughout Cardiff, starting with Butetown.
- Establishing a city centre Community Hub at The Friary.

*We will promote leisure and sporting facilities across the city by:*

- Using the Community Infrastructure Levy to refurbish and develop sports facilities, beginning with those at Blackweir, Tremorfa and Pontcanna.
- Examining the feasibility of letting local sports clubs run their own facilities through community asset transfers.
- Delivering a newly refurbished Eastern Leisure Centre.
- Developing the concept of 'Sporting Hubs', bringing a range of sports together to share better facilities and management.
- Delivering a new dual-pad ice rink and snow facility as part of the continued development of the International Sports Village site.
- Developing the new surf-rider centre as part of the International Sports Village.

- Continuing the regeneration of Leckwith around the new Cardiff City Stadium, including phase two of the House of Sport.
- Expanding further the number of Green Flag parks within the city.
- Completing the restoration of Bute Park.
- Further expanding the number of allotments available, thereby reducing waiting lists.
- Keeping Roath Park lake de-silted.

*We will promote Cardiff's culture and heritage by:*

- Promoting Cardiff as the capital of Wales through a comprehensive Welsh language strategy, continued St David's Day celebrations and bidding to host another National Eisteddfod.
- Recognising the enormous contribution that the New Theatre and St David's Hall provide to the cultural life of our city by ensuring that both are retained under council control.
- Expanding the St David's Day celebration into a week-long cultural festival.
- Working with the Friends of Insole Court on their vision to secure the transfer of this facility to the community under a Community Asset Transfer, thereby enabling the continued restoration of the building.
- Playing a prominent role in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through Cardiff's hosting of torch relays and football matches at the Millennium Stadium.
- Exploring the possibility of Cardiff bidding to host a future Commonwealth Games.
- Successfully hosting the WOMEX international music festival in 2013.
- Continuing to support 'Cardiff Contemporary' – a partnership initiative which aims to use the whole city as a gallery space for contemporary art in order to raise Cardiff's cultural profile.
- Delivering phase two of 'The Cardiff Story' following the successful opening of the first phase of the new city museum in 2011.