

COUNCIL: 25 OCTOBER 2018

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

SPG Consultations

The proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Student Accommodation and Flat Conversions are both currently subject to public consultation, with the deadline for comments on 1st November 2018.

Guildford Crescent

Public consultation is also currently underway on the proposed new Conservation Area at Guildford Crescent, with the deadline for comments on 28th November 2018. Guildford Crescent is the only remaining historic part of the inner city centre which isn't protected through planning legislation. The 15 buildings were built between 1851 and 1880 and are recognised as architecturally significant as they are traditional low rise terraces. By designating this crescent as a conservation area, the Council aims to preserve the area's special architectural and historic interest.

Segregated Cycling Routes

A new segregated cycle track has been constructed adjacent to North Road, between the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the access road to the Ambulance Service depot at Blackweir. The scheme replaces a painted cycle lane with a much wider two-way track, which is fully segregated from the adjacent public car park and pedestrian path. The new track is integrated with the provision of new crossing facilities at the junction of North Road and Corbett Road, which enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross North Road safely and gain access to/from the new cycle track and Bute Park.

This scheme provides an illustration of the type of segregated facility which will be developed as part of the planned Cycle Superhighways. In terms of progress on developing these within Cardiff, we are continuing work to progress the delivery of the first section of Cycle Superhighway between St Andrews Crescent and Cathays Terrace, via Senghennydd Road. We aim to commence construction in the first quarter of 2019.

Nextbikes

The nextbike on-street cycle hire scheme reached a major milestone this month with the number of rentals passing 100,000 since the scheme was launched in May 2018. In the last week of September, the Cardiff nextbike scheme was the most successful nextbike scheme in the UK.

There are now 500 bikes in circulation and additional docking stations have been installed in a number of locations across the city. We are also bidding for Welsh Government funding to increase the size of the bike fleet and expand the network of docking stations.

Wales' First Bicycle Street

The completion of the Greener Grangetown project was marked officially on 10th October 2018 by Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn AM. The scheme includes the creation of Wales' first ever 'bicycle street' along Taff Embankment, one of the busiest sections of the Taff Trail. The scheme includes a central rumble strip on the carriageway, a number of raised speed tables at junctions and informal crossings, which together help slow traffic and make the street more conducive to walking and cycling.

Taff Trail Maintenance

Weekly sweeping of sections of the Taff Trail between Bute Park and Tongwynlais has commenced. This will continue throughout the autumn in order to minimise the build-up of leaves on the pathways.

Air Quality

The Council is continuing work on a feasibility study of Nitrogen Dioxide compliance following a legal direction received earlier this year from the Welsh Government. This study will provide the Council with a detailed understanding of air quality across the city and will assess in detail measures to improve air quality in the shortest possible time. A preferred option to deliver compliance needs to be agreed with the Welsh Government by the end of June 2019 at the latest.

We submitted our Clean Air Feasibility Study to Welsh Government as per the deadline; however, the consultants are still confirming some of the figures and the modelled impacts of our proposed mitigating measures. We intend to bring this to the next possible Cabinet meeting.

Rail Services

I welcome the start of the new rail franchise overseen by Transport for Wales, which heralds the start of a new way of delivering rail services in Wales. This will bring benefits to users in terms of new trains, increased frequencies and improved facilities, as well as the creation of new high quality jobs in Wales. The Council has built a close working relationship with Transport for Wales to help improve all aspects of transport in Cardiff and the south east Wales region.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
19 October 2018