

**COUNCIL: 26 OCTOBER 2017**

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## **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT STATEMENT**

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### **Green Paper Update**

As set out in Capital Ambition and as discussed at last month's full Council we will be bringing forward a Green Paper on Transport & Clean Air. The purpose of the Green Paper is to have a fuller discussion with citizens and stakeholders about our wider transport system, and ways we can improve our overall wellbeing and the quality of our air.

The Green Paper will include analysis and review of where we are now, and proposals and options for the future. The findings of the paper will allow us to bring forward more firm proposals in the form of a White Paper.

I am inviting all parties to help scope out the content of the paper, and subject to the Lord Mayor's consent, I plan to bring it forward to full Council for debate early in the New Year.

### **Highway Operations**

The carriageway surface treatment programme has been successfully completed and work is progressing well to deliver ongoing patching work across the City. Notably the Highway Asset Team are working in collaboration with the Vale of Glamorgan to resurface Culverhouse Cross interchange and this work will take place over the next 4-6 weeks. The work will look to remove some of the congestion seen in the evening by changing the lane allocations on the gyratory and this work will reinvigorate this important gateway to Cardiff.

### **Winter Cycling**

This year we have all noticed an increase in the number of cyclists on our roads and paths across the city. This is good for the cyclist, it is good for congestion, it improves the quality of the air we all breathe and it makes Cardiff a more social and safe place to live. As a Council we want to see this grow even further.

However, as we get into autumn and winter draws nearer, we know that cycling becomes less straightforward. Surfaces are more likely to have leaves, be wet, and even icy during cold weather. It also gets darker during the main commuting time which affects travelling conditions for all road users. Despite these factors, we know many people still want to cycle to work, to their school or university, or to the shops. We should all do everything we can to support these people. They are quite literally keeping Cardiff moving.

With this in mind we have put in place new arrangements to deal with leaves and other debris on our main off-road cycling route, the Taff Trail. Starting this week, the Council's maintenance teams will be regularly sweeping the sections of the Taff Trail which are most heavily affected by the autumn leaf fall.

What is less straightforward is the gritting of off-road cycle paths. Unfortunately, it is impractical to carry out gritting of the paths manually and using gritting vehicles is also not an option as the vehicles are too large to gain access to the off-road path network. We also have to consider the environmental effects of salt-grit being put down in our parks and green corridors. Currently, we don't have an easy answer to this issue, but we will continue to investigate possible solutions and welcome any ideas people may have.

We want cyclists to be safe during the winter months. Cyclists can help keep themselves safe by having good lights on their bikes, wearing visible clothing, ensuring tyres and breaks are fully functioning and taking extra care in poor conditions.

But most importantly, we strongly urge vehicle drivers to take extra care to consider the safety of cyclists, by giving extra space, slowing speeds and recognising the serious injury that even the smallest of collisions could cause.

**Councillor Caro Wild**  
**Cabinet Member Strategic Planning and Transport**  
**26 October 2017**