

**COUNCIL: 19 JULY 2018**

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## **STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT**

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### **Removal of Permitted Development Rights**

Conservation areas are in place in parts of the city to protect areas of special architectural or historical interest. In Llandaff and on Cardiff Road, there is an ongoing problem of householders making changes to the outside of their property which are not in keeping with neighbouring properties and the wider area. Most recently, some householders have removed parts of the boundary of their property, whether it is a wall or a gate, to create parking in the grounds of their property.

The work carried out is often unsightly and often carried out to the detriment of the wider area and neighbours living in close proximity to where the modifications on these buildings have been made. Given these issues in Llandaff and on Cardiff Road, the Cabinet agreed on 12 July 2018 that the Planning Authority can remove permitted development rights for properties which front onto a road or onto open space to control the development in these areas. This will mean that certain work will require planning permission, which we believe will help protect the important contribution of the Llandaff and Cardiff Road Conservation Areas to the heritage of the city.

### **Nextbike**

Members will be aware that the Nextbike cycle hire scheme was officially launched in Cardiff on 25 May 2018. Further to the figures reported to Council last month as part of my statement, the total number of bike rentals to date has since doubled to over 30,600, with around 5,700 bikes currently being rented on a weekly basis. In addition, the number of registrations to the Nextbike hire scheme has increased from 7,793 to 11,652.

We are in the process of rolling out a further 25 cycle hire stations by the end of next month. I have been in touch with Members whose wards are affected. This will provide hire locations further away from the city centre, meaning that there will be bikes available in the majority of wards across the city, including wards in the East and the West where there have traditionally been lower rates of cycling.

### **Transport and Clean Air Green Paper**

The 14-week public consultation on the Transport and Clean Air Green Paper closed on 1 July 2018. I would like to thank everyone that helped to make the process both engaging and comprehensive. There have been more than 3,000 valid online survey

responses and over 40 organisations have been involved. The results are still being analysed and will be used alongside discussions with Transport for Wales regarding the development of the Metro, the outcomes of our Economy Green Paper and the outcome of the current feasibility studies on air quality to inform the development of a White Paper on Transport and Clean Air that is due to be published later in the year.

### **Metro**

Cardiff Council representatives were pleased to attend the launch of the South Wales Metro network map on 4 June 2018. The Welsh Government's preferred bidder, KeolisAmey, has brought forward a solution that we believe will create a strong local and regional train and light rail network that will form the backbone of a new integrated regional transport system. We have met with Transport for Wales and KeolisAmey about our joint priorities for Cardiff to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people of Cardiff and have also discussed the future growth of the network. I would like to congratulate the Welsh Government on how it has successfully conducted Wales' biggest ever procurement exercise.

### **Operation Close Pass**

The Council is currently supporting Operation Close Pass, which is being led by South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and GoSafe, the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership. The initiative, which was launched at the Velothon Wales event on 8 July 2018 and runs until early next month, focuses on improving the safety of cyclists on the roads in South Wales by reminding drivers of the need to allow 1.5 metres safe clearance distance when overtaking cyclists. It also aims to raise awareness of how to drive courteously with respect for others on the roads. Operation Close Pass has been successful in other parts of the UK, but this is the first time that it has been undertaken in Wales.

### **Welsh Government Active Travel Fund**

The Welsh Government has recently announced an additional £60million in capital funding to invest in active travel projects across Wales over the next three years. Cardiff Council has ambitious plans to implement a network of fully segregated cycle ways and we will be bidding to this fund to help build the core of this network. The Council has already allocated an additional £6million of its own capital budget, demonstrating our commitment to active travel as we aim to become one of the very best cities for active travel in the UK.

**Councillor Caro Wild**

**Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport**

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2018**