
STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Air Quality

Following Cabinet approval last month of the Clean Air Final Plan to deliver compliance with the legal limit for NO₂ in the shortest possible time, I can confirm that our Final Plan was formally submitted to the Welsh Government on 28th June 2019, thereby complying with the requirements of the Legal Direction issued to the Council. We are awaiting formal feedback on the Final Plan from the Welsh Government who have indicated that a Ministerial decision will be made at the end of July/start of August. This decision will also provide confirmation on the level of funding that will be awarded to the Council to implement the proposed measures contained in the Final Plan. As stated previously, these measures will not only achieve legal compliance, but will significantly reduce the level of NO₂ and other key pollutants in the city centre, which will significantly improve air quality and the public health of our citizens. I will of course keep Members fully informed of matters as we work with the Welsh Government on this project going forward.

Nextbike Update

Work to roll out additional bikes for the city's Nextbike fleet is continuing alongside important mitigation measures to reduce vandalism to existing bikes. At present, 100 bikes are being prepared for on-street deployment, with a further 100 bikes anticipated by the end of July and the fleet is being upgraded and made more vandal resistant. Ride levels continue to be strong with 6,000-7,000 rides per week.

The programme for installing new docking sites in the city is also being reassessed to ensure that the likelihood of additional vandalism is reduced. A communications programme is in place to encourage better compliance with returning bikes to the docking stations, as bikes that are left away from stations are more vulnerable. Members of the public are also being encouraged to be vigilant and to report issues to Nextbike, who are working closely with South Wales Police.

Active Travel Conference

I was pleased to join with the Leader of the Council in attending the Welsh Government's Active Travel Conference on 4th July 2019, which was attended by representatives from the Council's Transport Policy, Highways and Education teams, as well as transport professionals from local authorities, advocacy groups and the private sector in Wales. It was pleasing to hear the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters AM, reiterate the Welsh Government's support for our ambitious cycling infrastructure plans. I also welcome his commitment to bring forward plans to tackle the problem of pavement parking in Wales.

Transport Vision

At the Active Travel Conference, the Leader previewed the Council's 'big ideas' for the future development of the transport network in Cardiff that will feature in the Council's Transport White Paper, which is due to be published in the autumn. His presentation set out some of the bold and radical solutions for transforming the city's transport infrastructure in order to accommodate the city's future growth and to support increased active travel and use of public transport. Some of the key proposals include:

- Cardiff Cross Rail – a new light rail/tram line from east to west connecting major population centres and new suburbs in the west of the city with Cardiff Central Train Station.
- Cardiff Circle Line – a complete orbital light rail/tram line connecting the existing Coryton and Taff Vale lines and linking large residential areas to the transport network;
- a new park and ride at junction 32 of the M4 connected to the Circle Line;
- a new Rapid Bus Transport Network using green and electric vehicles;
- new, safe cycleways and walking routes linked to bus, rail and tram networks;
- working with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to provide an integrated ticketing system that would allow transport users to move seamlessly from one transport mode to another; and
- making Cardiff a 20mph city.

The proposals outlined by the Leader were covered extensively in the local media and have generated a very positive response. I look forward to publishing further details of this exciting agenda later this year in our Transport White Paper and will seek to engage with members across the chamber as we seek to turn this vision into reality.

WOW Badge Design Competition

WOW is a pupil led initiative run by Living Streets where children self-report how they get to school every day using an interactive tracker. If they travel to school using sustainable methods (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get a badge. Each year, the 11 WOW badges follow a new WOW theme, all of which are designed by pupils in the annual badge competition.

I was pleased to attend Lakeside Primary School to congratulate pupil, Zara Alyas, on her winning badge design as part of this year's national competition, which will now be used in schools throughout the UK. I would also like to thank the Living Streets charity for their work to challenge and change school-run behaviours and to improve safety for children. This project is one of many successful programmes being undertaken with and by our schools as we work to support every school in Cardiff to have an Active Travel Plan.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
12 July 2019