

COUNCIL: 30 JANUARY 2020

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Clean Air Plan

Following submission of our revised final Clean Air Plan, the Welsh Government confirmed on 20th December 2019 that they fully approved the revised plan. This, together with funding of £21m for the Plan, was announced publicly by the Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM, on 10th January 2020.

The main aspect of the Clean Air Plan will be the implementation of the City Centre improvements. Work has commenced on these projects with the contract for Phase 1 (Central Square) set to be awarded this month. Enabling works will commence on site in March 2020 with full site works commencing in July 2020. The subsequent phases will then continue around the City Centre and be managed and phased to keep disruption to a minimum.

Work is ongoing with the other measures. In terms of the bus retrofitting, the Council is working with Welsh Government as the scheme falls under State Aid Rules. It is hoped that this will progress from the start of April 2020 and we are working with the main bus operators to progress this scheme.

The revision to the Taxi Licensing Policy is a sensitive matter and we are working directly with the taxi trade to ensure that the implementation of the revised policy and the awarded £1.8m is best used to support drivers in Cardiff. It is hoped that the revision to the policy will be approved early in 2020, with the grant scheme also going live to encourage and support drivers to switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the measures, additional real-time air quality monitoring will be implemented in the City Centre. This will include 1 full real-time station on Castle Street and an additional 5 real-time indicative monitors.

Business Healthy Travel Charter

On 23rd January 2020, I was delighted to be part of the launch of the Business Healthy Travel Charter for Wales at an event hosted by FOR Cardiff. The Charter has been developed between businesses in Cardiff, FOR Cardiff and the Cardiff & Vale Local Public Health Team. The development of the Business Charter follows the successful launch in April 2019 of the Cardiff Public Sector Healthy Travel Charter, with other charters currently in development.

Businesses signing up to the Charter are making a public commitment to reduce their environmental impact and make it easier for their staff, customers and clients to walk, cycle, take public transport and use Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.

Local Development Plan

Consultation on the Draft Local Development Plan (LDP) Review Report & Draft Delivery Agreement was launched on 14th January 2020 as the Council has a statutory duty to review the LDP four years after plan adoption. The Draft Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the LDP review process. This process must determine the revision procedure to be followed – specifically, whether to undertake a short form revision or full revision, which would require the preparation of a Replacement LDP. It concludes that the preparation of a Replacement LDP (2020 to 2035) is considered the most appropriate option.

The Draft Delivery Agreement provides details of the various stages involved in the plan-making process and the time each part of the process is likely to take. It also sets out the way in which the Council proposes to involve the local community and other stakeholders in the preparation of a replacement LDP. Feedback on the consultation will be reported back to Council in spring 2020.

Senghennydd Road Cycleway

This first section of Cardiff's Cycleway network was officially opened on 7th January 2020, when councillors, officers and active travel groups were joined by the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters AM, on a celebratory ride of the new route. This was followed by a reception at the Sherman Theatre where concept designs for forthcoming construction projects were on display, including the next phase of cycleway that will continue onwards from Senghennydd Road along Cathays Terrace, Whitchurch Road and Allensbank Road to connect with the University Hospital of Wales.

School Streets Pilot Launched

The School Streets pilot scheme was launched on 16th January 2020 at Lansdowne Primary School in Canton. Five primary schools have been chosen to take part in the pilot scheme and each of the schemes will be monitored over an 18-month period with a view to rolling out the scheme city-wide.

As part of the scheme, roads leading to/from the schools will be closed to non-residents at the start and end of the school day between 8.30am and 9.15am in the morning and 2.45pm and 3.45pm in the afternoon. There will be no road closures at weekends, during school holidays or on school inset days. People living on the streets will continue to have normal access to their homes. Blue Badge holders will also be unaffected by the closures.

The five schools taking part in the pilot scheme, and the roads being closed, are:

- Lansdowne Primary School – Norfolk Street;
- Llandaff Church in Wales Primary School – Hendre Close;
- Pencaerau Primary School – Cyntwell Avenue;
- Peter Lea Primary School – Carter Place; and
- Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd – Davis's Terrace and Glan-Y-Nant Terrace.

Councillor Caro Wild

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport

24 January 2020