

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2021

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

City-wide Recovery – District Centres and ‘Pop-up’ Cycleways

The construction of Phase 2 at Wellfield Road is underway and is due to be completed at the end of the month. Following this, we shall be undertaking another period of monitoring, community engagement and review as we move towards developing and designing the permanent scheme for Wellfield Road.

Work on the Cross-City cycle route has continued along a stretch of Cowbridge Road East, with new junction lights being installed on Castle Street.

As part of the Council's response to Covid-19, we have taken action to enable safe social distancing for pupils and parents travelling to and from school. In addition to our delivery of School Streets schemes and camera enforcement of Keep Clear markings outside schools, we have also made other small, but important changes outside a number of schools, including creating new paths and widening gateways and narrow pavements near school entrances.

The latest of these schemes involved the widening of the footway on Whitchurch Road outside the entrance of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, which was completed earlier this month. This improvement will enable pupils and parents to socially distance in safety at school drop off and pick up times.

South East Wales Transport Commission (‘Burns Commission’)

The final recommendations of the South East Wales Transport Commission, chaired by Lord Burns, which investigated solutions to reduce congestion on the M4 in South East Wales, were published on 26 November 2020. The Welsh Government's subsequent response to the Commission's final recommendations was published on 19 January 2021, with Welsh Ministers accepting in principle all of the Commission's recommendations.

The Commission's report recommended a range of measures to transform public transport infrastructure in South East Wales, including endorsement of Cardiff's ambitions to establish a series of core bus corridors and our aspiration to extend the proposed Cardiff Crossrail to a potential new station at Newport Road. In addition, the report included some very important recommendations on active travel routes within the Cardiff area and improving cross-boundary links between Cardiff and Newport.

We are pleased that the Commission endorsed our segregated cycleways programme and other active travel facilities. We also welcome the recommendations on developing a new rapid bus corridor and cycling links between Cardiff and Newport. These links will connect Cardiff's segregated network with potential new segregated routes along the A48 corridor and the rural sections of National Cycle Network Route 88 east of St Mellons. We have already commenced collaboration with Transport for Wales, who will be leading the technical work for these schemes, and Newport City Council.

We are also working with Vale of Glamorgan Council to investigate options for improving cross-boundary connections between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Study work for this will be commissioned in the next financial year.

City Centre East Plans

Public engagement is being carried out on the proposed City Centre East plans, including phase one of the 'Canal Quarter' on Churchill Way and a new public square at Kingsway, in addition to improvements to access by public transport and active modes. The detailed plans and proposals are available online at: <https://keepingcardiffmoving.co.uk/>

Active Travel

The first phase of Cycleway 4 in Sophia Gardens has been completed. This phase links Castle Street to Western Avenue (A48) via Sophia Gardens and Lime Tree Avenue in Pontcanna Fields. Proposals for the next stage of this route through Llandaff will be brought forward for consultation shortly.

We have also launched the Cardiff Commonplace consultation (<https://cardiff.commonplace.is>) to get feedback on improvements needed for walking and cycling across the city, which will feed into our Active Travel Network Map later this year. The consultation has had a brilliant response rate so far, with over 2,000 comments submitted, and will run until 29 January 2021.

Bus Emergency Scheme

On 21 January 2021, the Cabinet approved the Welsh Government Bus Emergency Scheme (BES2) Agreement, which will provide financial support for the bus sector and establish a relationship with the South East Wales regional lead authority, Monmouthshire County Council, to ensure that the ongoing emergency funding meets the Council's priorities and is delivered on its behalf.

Play Sufficiency Funding Bids

Funding has been awarded to put the following schemes in place:

- Scooters to be given to Primary schools, Specialist Resource Bases and Special schools along with lesson plans.
- Balance bikes to be given to the maintained nurseries.
- Scooters to be given to the maintained nurseries and Flying Start provisions.

- Scooter and bike ramps to be given to 32 Primary schools who have scooter and Schools Bike fleets.
- Kits for schools to enable street play sessions where School Streets are in place.

The funding is to ensure that children receive additional play opportunities and to support active travel to education provisions.

Replacement Local Development Plan

Following approval by Cabinet and Council in November 2020, the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement were issued for consultation for four weeks from 7 January to 4 February 2021. Comments received during the consultation and a final version of the Review Report and Delivery Agreement will be reported back to Cabinet and Council in March 2021 where authorisation will be sought to submit them to Welsh Government.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
21 January 2021