

COUNCIL: 28 JANUARY 2021

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Christmas Waste Collections Update

I would like to thank all Cardiff residents for their patience in the weeks following Christmas. The team found themselves in particularly challenging times, with a 17% reduction in staff due to Covid-19, alongside the total amount of material being presented for collection increasing by over 1,000 tonnes compared to the weeks following Christmas last year. This staggering increase meant that rounds were unable to be completed due to the sheer volume of material being presented and this was something that was evident throughout the Local Authority waste collection sector across the UK, as a result of changes to people's behaviours due to the Covid-19 pandemic and new lockdown period. I am pleased to confirm that the service is now back on track and moving towards delivering the new collection service next month.

New Waste Collection Service

We have commenced our public communications campaign for the new waste collection service, which will begin on Monday 22 February 2021. Letters are beginning to hit doorsteps across the city and I would ask Members to encourage residents to keep an eye out and read the information that is being provided to households. I would also recommend using the CardiffGov app, alongside visiting www.cardiff.gov.uk/collections or www.cardiff.gov.uk/askbobi to find out more about the new collection days.

Circular Economy Fund

The Council's Recycling and Neighbourhood Services have been successful in securing further funding from the Welsh Government's Circular Economy Fund, which will support a number of projects including:

- A city-wide rollout of the separate collection of glass bottles and jars;
- Recycling trials to improve recycling quality in blocks of flats;
- CCTV cameras to combat incorrect presentation of waste and fly-tipping; and
- Zero emission cleansing vac sweeps to remove litter.

We will also be supporting our Child Friendly City programme by setting up Terracycle and community fridge projects throughout the city, as well as supporting the Llanrumney Hall Community Development team in establishing a re-use, repair, reclaim and redistribution hub for the local community.

Clean Air Plan

The Council received three applications from bus operators for our Bus Retrofit scheme, funded by the Welsh Government, and we have approved these bids. This will fund 80% of the costs, enabling over 50 buses to be fitted with approved technology that will ensure their emissions from these buses are improved by more than 95% from these buses. This is one of the measures in our Clean Air Plan that has been agreed by the Welsh Government to ensure that we improve air quality on Castle Street to comply with legal limits.

Electric Vehicles

We are awaiting final approval of an enhanced taxi funding scheme from the Welsh Government, which will enable us to support the taxi trade and encourage drivers to switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs). We appreciate that the taxi trade has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and we hope that this scheme will support any drivers looking to acquire an ULEV. We hope to launch the scheme in the coming weeks.

Work commenced both last month and this month on the installation of a further five Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points as part of our initial rollout of publicly available chargers. These are located in the Riverside, Grangetown and Llandaff areas of the city. We will look to continue to rollout EV infrastructure to support residents that do not have off-street parking and are not able to facilitate the installation of their own charger at home. I would also encourage Members to engage with me to identify suitable streets within their wards where they feel the installation of any EV charging points would be beneficial and welcomed by residents as we want to continue to expand the network across the city.

The installation of an additional five rapid EV charging points also commenced last month and will continue this month. These are located in the City Centre and will be publicly available once fully commissioned.

Councillor Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
21 January 2021