

**COUNCIL: 24 JUNE 2021**

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

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**Replacement LDP Consultation**

The consultation on the first stage of the preparation of the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) was launched on 28 May 2021. This includes a new website ([www.cardiffldp.co.uk](http://www.cardiffldp.co.uk)) to encourage members of the public to have their say on the draft documents. The consultation seeks views on the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives for the LDP and the draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report (closing date 23 July 2021), together with a call for candidate sites (closing date 20 August 2021).

The consultation aims to engage with a wide range of groups, including young people and older people. To ensure this, a consultation and engagement strategy has been drawn up, which includes a new bespoke website, virtual consultation room, online survey, short film, use of social media, targeted engagement and use of Council and external engagement networks. As Covid-19 restrictions ease, it is hoped that more face-to-face events will be possible.

To date, approximately 100 surveys have been completed and 1,326 visits have been made to the new website and virtual consultation room. There have also been numerous requests to be kept informed of the process going forward.

The draft Vision, Issues and Objectives and ISA Scoping Report, together with comments received during the consultation, will be reported back to Cabinet and Council in the autumn.

**Current Transport Trends**

As of the last week of May 2021, traffic across Cardiff was at around 80% of the levels experienced prior to the pandemic, with traffic within the city centre reaching around 70%. Both walking and cycling levels are similar to those pre-Covid, and footfall within the city centre has now returned to over 80% of its prior levels. Typical NO<sup>2</sup> air quality is around 40% of pre-pandemic levels within the city centre and 50% at Newport Road.

Public transport use continues to recover, with bus and rail use combined currently at around 65%, while footfall levels at Cardiff's rail stations are around 55%, and with bus services now operating at 90% of their prior frequency.

Overall travel demand continues to increase in response to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions (with Wales currently in the transitional period between Alert Levels 2 and 1), with levels currently around 85%. Around 55% of the workforce are typically travelling to work, while around 30% continue to work from home.

### **Future of Castle Street**

The report of the consultation on the future of Castle Street, alongside air quality and traffic modelling, was considered by the Cabinet on 17 June 2021. Due to concerns over air quality in residential areas and Covid-19 uncertainty, the decision has been taken to open the road to traffic with a non-permanent scheme. This scheme will be delivered over the summer and will be ready to open in the autumn. The scheme will have a pop-up segregated cycleway, a westbound bus lane and two general traffic lanes. Further modelling and testing will be carried out on the impacts and recovery period to inform future decisions on the street and the wider network.

### **Cycleways – Progress Update**

- **Cycleway 1.2**

The tender process for this phase (1.2) of the route between the city centre and the University Hospital Wales site in Heath has been undertaken and tenders are being assessed.

- **Cycleways 2 and 5**

A 'pop-up' segregated cycleway is now in place between Leckwith Road and Dumfries Place via Wellington Street, Castle Street and Boulevard de Nantes. This new route uses separate traffic signals for cyclists at each of the junctions, with a different 'stage' at each junction for traffic and pedestrians. Construction of the next phase east of Dumfries Place along Newport Road to Broadway is in progress and scheduled for completion in September 2021. Work is progressing on permanent options for Newport Road from the city centre out to Rumney. Early stakeholder engagement will begin this summer.

- **Cycleway 3**

Work on the cross-city south route connecting Lloyd George Avenue with Herbert Street and Tyndall Street is nearing completion. Works on junctions and pedestrian crossings is taking place in June and July 2021 to complete the scheme.

- **Cycleway 4**

Public consultation on options for the next phase between Western Avenue and Llandaff took place in April/May 2021. Online engagement sessions were held with a number of stakeholder groups. The report of the consultation will be published in the next few weeks and will help to inform the decision on the best route option for the section of route north of Western Avenue.

### **Wellfield Road**

The construction of the scheme on Wellfield Road has been completed, this includes a one-way system on Wellfield Road and 'lower' Pen-y-Lan Road, together with a two-way segregated cycle lane and footway widening on Wellfield Road. Scheme now being monitored

## **Albany Road Area – Zonal Parking**

It is anticipated that the proposals to install a new parking scheme covering streets above and below Albany Road will be consulted on, alongside the cycle facilities that are currently being considered for Albany Road. A decision on phasing will be taken when more clarity on detail and the programme for this cycleway is reached.

## **20mph Pilot**

Cardiff Council is working with Welsh Government as one of eight areas across Wales to trial 20mph limits. This is part of the initial phase of a national rollout of 20mph as the default speed limit in built-up areas, and a further expansion of the progress which has already been made in Cardiff to implement 20mph limits in many local communities. The Cardiff pilot area covers the wards of Heath, Llandaff North, Rhiwbina and Whitchurch & Tongwynlais. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are currently being prepared and, subject to public consultation on these TROs, works to implement the 20mph limits (by way of signage and road markings) are expected to commence in September 2021.

## **Schools Bike Fleets – Phase 3**

Applications have now closed for the Schools Bike Fleet project and the tender process is underway. 24 new applications were received, which will be supported. These include nine bespoke school fleets, seven of which will include adapted trikes or bikes. Pedal Power, Cardiff's inclusive cycling charity, is providing paid consultancy advice on the specification of the adapted bikes and trikes. By the end of phase 3, over 100 Schools Bike Fleets will be located in Cardiff schools and educational provisions.

Four educational providers are currently in the process of, or planning to, setting up bike maintenance projects with their pupils, in addition to the project that the Council's EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) service is running.

## **School Streets**

There is increasing demand for School Street access restrictions on streets outside schools. Requests for School Streets have been received from schools (including direct requests from pupils), local residents and ward members, often as a result of safety concerns due to the volume of vehicles accessing schools and driver behaviour, such as footway parking and attempting turning manoeuvres, which have a direct impact on vulnerable road users.

Funding has been secured from Welsh Government to deliver additional school streets projects in the 2021/22 financial year. Consultation will take place over the summer on a further phase of schemes that will be implemented in autumn 2021. Further details of these schemes will be published in the near future and engagement with schools, ward members, residents and other stakeholders will take place prior to implementation of the schemes.

## **Cycle Parking for Schools**

The Council has secured further Welsh Government grant funding for this financial year for schools' cycle parking. This will enable over 30 schools to benefit from new bike shelters, bike compounds, bike racks & scooter racks, along with access paths and plinths, etc. Officers are liaising with schools who have requested cycle parking and are carrying out site surveys in order to establish what facilities can be provided. The tender process will take place over the summer months with installation commencing during the autumn period. The provision of cycle parking at schools is closely linked with activities being delivered by the Active Travel Schools and Road Safety Teams to develop active travel plans and deliver national standards cycle training.

## **Bus Strategy and Bus Emergency Scheme Update**

The Council is due to publish a draft Bus Strategy within the next few months that builds on the actions contained in the Transport White Paper. It will set out a programme of interventions to help make public transport more convenient and easier to use in support of the recovery from Covid-19 and the growth of Cardiff.

Working groups have been established in partnership with the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, local authorities and bus operators on the Bus Emergency Scheme being funded by the Welsh Government. The BES2 Agreement has been formulated to be in place until 31 July 2022 and will continue to address the loss of farebox revenue and the additional costs associated with responding to the pandemic. It will also seek to provide a platform for improving the bus network and encouraging people back into using public transport during the recovery period.

## **Highway and Footway Asset Improvement Programme**

So far in the current financial year, the ongoing annual highway improvement programme has delivered 33 carriageway schemes covering approx. 62,000sq.m of existing carriageway. The treatments include deep inlay, resurfacing and micro asphalt. In addition, 55 streets have received localised patching repairs covering 6,114sq.m. Footway reconstruction is ongoing with 1,850sq.m completed. Survey and preparation work for additional 2021/22 capital schemes is ongoing.

Following the additional resources allocated to pavement resurfacing, the Council is setting out plans for new programmes of improvements and would welcome the reporting of footway defects by members and the wider public.

## **Residential LED Street Lighting**

The contract for the renewal of all residential street lighting has been awarded. The replacement of circa 24,000 units is scheduled to start next month and will take approximately 18 months to be delivered. The existing lighting units will be replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting. Due to the reduction in electricity usage and the related carbon emissions, the LED units provide considerable environmental benefits, as well as cost savings. In addition, they will be aligned to the existing central management system so that lighting levels can be controlled to appropriate levels for their environments.

## **Principality Stadium Boardwalk**

The works to replace the ageing timber structural members and deck of the boardwalk with a new and sustainable recycled composite material are progressing. The majority of the north end of the walkway has now been completed and works to the southern end will follow immediately after. In addition, due to the condition of the existing systems, the lighting and related components are to be renewed and will be aligned to the street lighting central management lighting system so that the lighting along the boardwalk will be improved, but will also be more efficient from an energy usage perspective.

**Councillor Caro Wild**

**Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport**

**17 June 2021**