
CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:

One Planet Cardiff Capital Budget

Cabinet Members have recently approved funding for a series of smaller scale capital projects to help in the delivery of our One Planet Cardiff ambitions. A rolling annual fund was allocated in the 2021/22 Budget that was approved by Council in February 2021 and the £700,000 available in the current financial year has now been allocated to fund eight pathfinder and pilot projects. These include:

- a project to deliver detailed power use data and benchmarking for Council buildings so that energy efficiency and behaviour change schemes can be identified and closely monitored;
- schemes to install innovative heat exchange equipment in two of our buildings (Rhiwbina Hub and Thornhill Crematorium) reducing reliance on fossil fuels;
- two schemes to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, one of which will support the rollout of electric waste vehicles from Lamby Way;
- innovative on-site food composters for use in eight schools that will reduce the need for waste transportation;
- additional air quality sensors to enhance our real-time monitoring capabilities;
- a trial scheme to test the use of reusable recycling sacks that will help to reduce the Council's consumption of single use plastics.

These schemes will all be implemented during this financial year and will supplement the more significant projects and action plan that will be announced as part of the final One Planet Cardiff Strategy that is expected to be approved by Cabinet in the autumn.

Clean Air and Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Work is currently underway as part of the Council's Clean Air Plan to retrofit 49 buses with the latest emission technology to improve standards which will see emissions from nitrogen oxides improved by up to 95%. The Council is working with Cardiff Bus and Stagecoach who successfully bid for funding as part of the Clean Air Plan. It is hoped that this project will be fully completed by the end of August 2021.

A further five fast electric vehicle (EV) charge points are now operational following completion of installation. These charge points are located in Llandaff, Riverside and Grangetown. We are also looking at the installation of a further 20 on-street charge points under a pilot project whereby units will be retrofitted into street lighting columns. Using funding from the One Planet Capital Programme, this project will be used to assess if the technology should be considered more widely to assist in the wider and rapid rollout of EV charging in areas where off-street parking is not available. It is hoped these units will be installed in late summer/early autumn 2021.

Flood Risk Management

Extensive progress has been made on the detailed design of the proposed coastal defence and protection scheme along the River Rhymney and Cardiff Foreshore, with the preferred options having been chosen and engagement meetings held with local members from the Rumney, Splott, Trowbridge, Adamsdown and Penylan electoral wards, as well as other relevant organisations and stakeholders. The Cabinet considered a report on 17 June 2021, which provided an update on progress and approved the procurement of an experienced and fully competent contractor to undertake the complex construction works proposed as part of this scheme. The procurement process is due to commence next month and applications for planning permission and the required licensing are due to be submitted in the coming months.

More widely across the city, several investigations into flood alleviation schemes are taking place, including the ongoing Rumney South project and the Whitchurch Brook investigation for which the outline business case has been recently submitted and accepted by Welsh Government. These investigations have shown that the introduction of green infrastructure such as rain gardens and attenuation basins, which have already been utilised across other areas of the city, are vital in mitigating against the ever-increasing flood risk that the city faces as a result of climate change.

Central Transport Services (CTS)

The phased renewal and replacement of frontline refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) is progressing well. To date, 16 have been delivered and five more are due over the next three weeks. One of these vehicles is a fully electric RCV. All of the other vehicles will meet the latest Euro 6 emissions standards so will make a significant improvement to reducing emissions compared to current older vehicles. A further five fully electric RCVs are on order, along with another 12 Euro 6 RCVs, which are due to arrive around December 2021 and will allow the Council to remove most of the remaining Euro 5 RCVs from the collection fleet.

CTS are currently working with the Waste Management team to introduce further replacement vehicles that will support the waste stream strategy. In late 2021, CTS also hope to participate in a trial of a hydrogen-powered RCVs, which, if successful, will potentially allow greater choice and flexibility in the future.

Love Where You Live

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the volunteer activities and great work of Love Where You Live and Keep Wales Tidy continued, culminating in the following achievements:

- Number of activities = 3,964
- Bags of rubbish removed = 8,803
- Bags of recycling processed = 263
- Volunteer hours worked = 6,704

I would like to thank the volunteers, officers and Keep Wales Tidy for the continued work to remove litter from public spaces, including the recent successful partnership work with Keep Wales Tidy for Spring Clean Cymru (28 May-13 June 2021) and the launch of the [‘Treasure Your River’ campaign](#).

Improvements to Hygiene Collection Services

To promote the hygiene collection service, all existing users, as well as any new users, will be provided with a new yellow hygiene waste storage caddy following feedback from users that they would like a container in which to store this material. The service will commence roll-out of the yellow hygiene waste caddies from 21 June 2021.

Users will still need to present bags (not caddies) at the kerbside, or at their agreed collection point, for collection. This has been clearly explained in letters sent to users of the service.

The service will also be updating the colour of the hygiene waste bags, which is currently collected in yellow 'tiger bags'. Following feedback, discussions with colleagues and as part of our commitment towards being a Dementia Friendly City, we will be changing the colour of the waste bags to purple in order to remove the stigma associated with placing yellow bags outside a property. We hope that the purple colour will be more discreet and will encourage vulnerable residents to participate in services that are available to support them.

The service currently collects 20-22 tonnes of hygiene waste material each week for recycling, which equates to over 1,000 tonnes per year. After treatment and processing of the nappies and absorbent hygiene products, the cellulose fibre is separated and used to produce fibreboards and acoustic panelling.

Management of Off-Road Bikes

The Council continues to work in partnership with South Wales Police to manage the use of off-road bikes on public land and joint exercises will continue through the summer months. In 2021, previous joint exercises have resulted in the removal of the following numbers of off-road bikes:

- Two off-road bikes confiscated on 28 February 2021 in Ely;
- Three off-road bikes confiscated on 25 April 2021 in Ely; and
- One off-road bike confiscated on 22 May 2021 in Rumney.

It should be noted that as well as the confiscation of the off-road bikes, additional actions were also undertaken such as referrals to Anti-Social Behaviour, Housing and Social Services.

Bereavement Services – 'Dear Mum' Memorial Garden

Cardiff Bereavement Services will be opening its 'Dear Mum' Memorial Garden on 14 July 2021. The 'Dear Mum' garden is a unique community asset that has been constructed in the heart of one of Cardiff's busiest and most diverse cemeteries at Western Cemetery in Ely. The memorial garden is designed to provide a therapeutic support service for bereaved families, which will be the first and only of its kind in the UK and has been completed in partnership with the SANDS charity.

The memorial garden will have sculptured characters located around it taken from a story book called 'Dear Mum', which is designed to help anyone who has lost a loved one, but is aimed particularly at helping children deal with grief and loss. As children and families make their way around the garden, they will encounter these characters, which will retell the whole story through inscriptions and scenes at each statue.

It is envisioned that the garden will provide a supportive and mindful space allowing visitors the chance to grieve, to talk and to learn about bereavement. Children and their parents will also be encouraged to spot a number of bees that will be located in the garden and also to take rubbings from a sculptured printing press.

The garden will not only support parents and children who have experienced loss, but also siblings and the wider community. It is also planned to invite schools to use the garden to teach children in both primary and secondary schools about bereavement and loss as part of their wider curricular work.

The opening ceremony will take place on 14 July 2021 at 11:00am led by the Lord Mayor and invites will shortly be sent to Ward Members in the area. Unfortunately, due to the need to limit attendance to ensure social distancing requirements are met, I cannot extend an open invitation to all elected Members; however, should any Councillor wish to attend, please contact me or the Operational Manager for Bereavement who will ensure that invitations are then sent.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
17 June 2021