

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:

City Travel Trends

Total travel demand has returned to pre-pandemic levels, whilst it is estimated that only 60% of employees are commuting to work. The AM-peak is less pronounced than pre-Covid and congestion remains reduced during both peak periods. Traffic across the day has returned to near pre-pandemic levels across Cardiff as a whole. Traffic and parking demand levels in the city centre are also around 80% of pre-pandemic levels.

Walking is up 30% and cycling is 10% higher than in 2019. Current cycle hire usage is also around 30% higher than the equivalent period in 2019. Public transport use of bus and rail has returned to around 80% of pre-pandemic levels. Rail patronage has increased to around 60% on a weekday and over 80% on the weekend.

Active Travel Network Map Consultation

Public consultation on the Active Travel Network Map was launched on 9 August 2021, which sets out proposals for walking and cycling in the city over the next 15 years. The consultation closes on 31 October 2021.

Cycleways

Cycleway works on Newport Road are ongoing and should be completed within the next month.

Work to construct Cycleway 1.2 (Cathays Terrace to University Hospital of Wales) has started this month.

Further design and feasibility work is ongoing on several other key routes, including

- **Cycleway 2:** Development of options for a segregated cycle route along the Newport Road corridor.
- **Cycleway 4.2:** Development of more detailed proposals following the recent public engagement on route options.
- **Cycleway 5:** Consultation on the section of segregated cycle route along Lawrenny Avenue connecting to the new Fitzalan High School, as well as further study work to develop route options for onward connections to Caerau and Ely and proposals for the section of route linking Wellington Street and Lawrenny Avenue.

- **Roath Recreation Ground/Roath Park Corridor:** Development of options for a strategic connection between the City Centre and north-east Cardiff via Richmond Road, Albany Road and the Roath Recreation Ground/Roath Park Corridor.

Options for all of these routes will be subject to public consultation over the coming 12 months.

Electric Bikes

The first 50 electric bikes of the Council's new 'e-bike' fleet were introduced last month, supported by a new brand for the scheme reflecting sponsorship of the scheme by OVO Energy. The new e-bikes are proving to be popular, accounting for 15% of all OVO Bike (formerly Nextbike) rentals.

An initial six rental stations have been installed at Cardiff International White Water, Wales Millennium Centre, County Hall, City Hall, Penylan Library & Community Centre and Llanishen Leisure Centre. It will also now be possible to use an OVO e-bike to cycle between Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, where a fleet of 50 e-bikes was also launched in Penarth last year and have proved incredibly popular with the public.

20mph Limits

The majority of areas in the city located below the A48 that are suitable for 20mph limits have been completed. The Welsh Government Phase 1 Default 20mph Project for in the 'Central North Cardiff' area, which covers Llandaff North, Whitchurch & Tongwynlais, Rhiwbina and Heath wards is now being consulted upon. Cardiff is one of eight local authority areas in Wales trialling the technical approach, which supports a change in the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.

Highways

Localised footway and carriageway improvements are ongoing throughout the city, along with footway reconstruction. The resurfacing of significant lengths of the city's high-speed routes (A48, A4232 and A4234 Central Link) has been delivered successfully. An extensive surface treatment programme that will apply surfacing to circa 60 roads throughout the city has also commenced. Assessment and preparation work for further capital schemes is ongoing with a view to delivery in 2021/22.

Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) Process

Following consideration of the Replacement LDP vision and objectives at this month's Council meeting, the next stage in the preparation of the Replacement LDP is consultation on the strategic options. This consultation will seek views on the levels of housing and jobs growth for the city to 2036 and spatial options for the delivery of this growth. The consultation is planned to take place for 10 weeks between 30 November 2021 and 8 February 2022 and will include a number of targeted workshops – for example, with groups representing black and ethnic minorities, homeless people and those on the Council's housing waiting list,

unemployed people, young and older people, disabled people and environmental groups. As with the previous consultation, it will be publicised via social media with an online survey for residents to complete and virtual consultation room for residents to find out more information on the consultation. There will also be briefing sessions with elected members prior to the launch of the consultation. Residents will be able to meet officers face-to-face during the consultation with the format dependant on Covid-19 restrictions applicable at the time. Following this, the next stage in the preparation process will be consultation on the Preferred Strategy in autumn 2022 following consideration by Cabinet and Council in September 2022.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
23 September 2021