
STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Active Travel Schools Programme

Working closely with my Cabinet colleague, the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills, our Active Travel Schools programme aims to encourage and support children to travel actively to school, by walking, scooting or cycling. The programme combines an integrated range of projects that focus on supporting pupils, families, residents and staff, and is being delivered by a multi-disciplinary team dedicated to delivering active travel and road safety for schools. Each school will have their own issues and variances, and this is why the Active Travel Schools programme takes a bespoke approach to delivery, whereby an individual school is supported with a tailored package of projects or activities combined in a way that best supports the implementation of their Active Travel Plan. Key projects and activities include:

Active Travel Plans

Working with every school in Cardiff to develop an Active Travel Plan – a bespoke action plan to address each school’s particular issues and barriers to active travel and support walking, scooting and cycling through training activities, provision of better on-site facilities and measures to make streets around schools safer for active journeys. The team support schools to access support and existing programmes or funding streams, this includes Foundation Level and Key Stage 2 schemes of learning for active travel, both of which are compatible with the new curriculum. Two of the latest initiatives developed by the team are training sessions to engage school governors as advocates of active travel and support active travel plan delivery. The team is also trialling the introduction of showers and changing facilities in primary and secondary school settings to enable school staff to travel to school actively. To date, 113 schools have either developed Active Travel Plans or have them in production, and around 130 schools are set to have Active Travel Plans in place by spring 2022.

Road Safety Education & Training

The Council delivers a full programme of road safety education and training activities, which are fully integrated with the work on Active Travel Plan development and implementation for schools. They include:

- National Standards Cycle Training: including on-playground (Level 1) and on-road (Level 2) training.
- Scooter Training
- Kerbcraft: child pedestrian training for Year 1 & Year 2 pupils delivered to primary schools.

- Junior Road Safety Officers: pupil participation in school road safety awareness promotion through site work, classwork and school assemblies.
- Streetwise: engagement with Year 6 pupils to equip them with the transition to high school with route planning and education in personal safety.

Cardiff School Bike Fleets

The Cardiff School Bike Fleet project, developed by the Council in partnership with Welsh Cycling and Pedal Power, is providing schools with a fleet of bikes for pupils to use in school for the delivery of cycle training and to embed cycling across the curriculum. The Council has already provided bike fleets to over 80 schools and other educational providers in the first two phases of the project. By the end of Phase 3 of the project, over 100 schools will have their own bike fleets.

Schools have been supported to embed cycling into their curriculums, ensuring that the bike fleets are utilised on an ongoing basis and that the opportunity continues to be offered to cohorts of pupils as they move up through the school. For example, schools have been provided with lesson plans by our Road Safety Team. Schools have documented how cycling will be incorporated into lessons in their curriculum plans. Schools are also working in partnership with each other to give the pupils more cycling opportunities and challenges.

In addition, school staff have also received National Standard Cycle Training and in primaries they have received balance bike training. This provides an 'in-house' skill set which offers greater flexibility for use of the bikes as well as supporting school staff in role modelling behaviour for pupils. Schools have been provided with basic bike maintenance tools and supplies as part of the project, so that some maintenance can be carried out by school staff.

As part of the scheme, bike fleets have been provided to the Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) unit and the Cardiff Youth Justice Service (YJS). The bike fleets are being used to give pupils extra training opportunities, to support continuing education and curriculum delivery and for travel to other provisions and social rides. This is helping to build relationships between youth workers and fellow pupils and develop confidence and independent mobility.

The EOTAS team and YJS have partnered with Cycle Training Wales to provide bike maintenance courses to their pupils. They are also providing free maintenance for their community and other schools locally, giving the pupils opportunities to give back to their community.

Bespoke fleets with adapted bikes and trikes are also being placed in specialist resource bases and special schools to allow everyone access to cycling. When mainstream schools apply to take part in the project, their Additional Learning Needs (ALN) register is reviewed to ensure the fleet enables all pupils to take part in cycling. The Council is working in partnership with Cardiff-based inclusive cycling charity, Pedal Power, to procure bespoke adapted bicycles to meet the needs of all pupils. Initial feedback indicates that pupils are benefitting in terms of building up strength, improving balance and co-ordination.

New Bike and Scooter Shelters Programme

Every school that needs new bike or scooter shelters can now get them. In 2020/21, 17 schools benefitted from new fully covered and secure bike or scooter shelters funded by the Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund grant. Around 30 schools are set to receive new shelters in 2021/22 and the Council is preparing a third phase of new shelter installation for 2022/23.

WOW Tracker

45 Cardiff schools are taking part in the challenge (launched in September 2021) where children record their daily journeys to school on an interactive WOW Travel Tracker, making Cardiff the top local authority in Wales to deliver the scheme and one of the UK's top participating cities. This project is being delivered by the Council's Active Travel Schools team in partnership with the walking charity Living Streets who are the developers of the WOW Tracker. Five schools started the programme in April and on average levels of active travel to school have increased from 54% of pupils to 84%. Pupils who travel actively each week – by walking, cycling or scooting to school – are rewarded with a badge which they collect over the year in a bid to reduce congestion and pollution and to increase children's road awareness and physical and mental health.

This year, the WOW badges follow the theme 'Walk for the World' and are all designed by pupils in an annual badge design competition. The badges are sustainably made from old yoghurt pots. Each school will be awarded a trophy to celebrate the class with the highest active travel each month. Children who live further away from school can still earn badges if families use Park and Stride or hop off the bus 10 minutes away from school and walk the rest of their journey. Parents can also park their car a few streets away from the school and the children can walk or scoot their way to and from the school gates.

Improving School Active Travel Routes and Facilities

Many schools lack good active travel routes and need improvements to make nearby roads safer for active travel journeys. The Council is working to deliver these improvements through a programme of infrastructure schemes. The schemes being delivered range from small-scale improvements such as footway widening and new or improved access gates and pathways to larger schemes that include new zebra crossings and changes to junctions to make them easier and safer for pedestrians to use.

School Streets

Roads around school gates are often dominated by cars – many causing a danger to children and contributing to harmful pollution levels in the area. School Streets are areas around school entrances that are pedestrianised during peak drop-off and pick-up times to help children access the school safely, promote active travel and reduce air pollution. Only vehicles with valid School Street permits are permitted to enter the School Street area during restricted times. The initial pilot School Streets scheme has seen a 23% increase in air quality across the five pilot scheme sites, as well as 81% less traffic in the vicinity of the school sites.

There 14 School Street schemes currently in place – further details can be found at: [School streets \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/school-streets). A further 10 schemes are set to be implemented during the current financial year.

Action on Parking Outside or Near Schools

Parked cars outside or near school entrances can pose a risk to child pedestrians or children cycling to school. To address this issue, the Council has installed parking CCTV cameras outside a large number of schools to enforce against and deter illegal parking on 'School Keep Clear' and zig zag markings. Many schools and local residents experience similar issues with cars parking on the highway or pavements within the immediate vicinity of schools during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods. Officers are working to address these issues through introducing stricter parking controls in these areas. This will help to reduce the number people parking near to schools and by improving safety will help encourage more pupils to travel actively to school.

Bus Strategy Consultation

The Council will shortly be consulting on a new Bus Strategy for Cardiff; the consultation will last eight weeks.

Public transport is essential to Cardiff and the wider city region. Concerns around the climate emergency, air quality and traffic congestion mean that we need to move to more sustainable modes of transport and reduce reliance on cars. The Council has developed a ten-year bus vision; an ambitious approach which puts the bus at the heart of Cardiff's transport, economic and environmental policies. Public transport and active travel need to become people's preferred modes of transport and the aim is to double the number of people travelling by bus by 2030.

Bus services in Cardiff offer a network of services with little or no integration of tickets across different operators and modes of transport, making it difficult to understand, and off-putting to potential users. Congested roads mean that services can be unreliable, frustrating for passengers, and expensive for operators.

The Council has some ideas about how the city can get from where we are today to achieving the 10-year vision, and I would encourage people to participate in the consultation so that the Council fully understands the issues and opportunities in the formulation of the Bus Strategy.

New Car Club

I am pleased that Cabinet has agreed to look for an official partner to run a new large-scale car club in the city. This is an exciting opportunity which I believe can help residents save money while freeing up space on our streets and improving air quality. Evidence is starting to appear which shows that people could be ready to start moving away from private car ownership to using a car only when they actually need it. Whilst that won't work for everyone, trends suggest younger people are now driving less, while shared mobility options like OVO Bikes are proving popular.

Under the plans, cars and vans would be available across the city which subscribers could book via an app or a website for immediate use. The vehicles will be new, meaning they produce vastly reduced emissions, and electric vehicles will be considered as part of any deal.

A Car Club has been trialled in the city before and cars are available now. Details can be found on the [Keeping Cardiff Moving website](#).

The Council will now undertake a tender process to look for a partner who can launch an expanded scheme by spring/summer of next year. Any successful proposal will need to interlink with the wider public transport network, bus and rail operators, and active travel routes.

Winter Preparedness

The Highway Maintenance Operations Team is preparing for the winter service. Over the summer, the Council has restocked its salt pile and currently holds approximately 2,500 tonnes of rock salt at the Brindley Road depot. Winter service vehicles and equipment have also been serviced ready for the start of the winter season at the beginning of November 2021.

On a local community level, a programme of grit bin filling has been carried out and will continue throughout the season. Reports of empty bins can be made directly to the Highways Team through the Council's website or CardiffGov app, where arrangements will then be made for them to be replenished.

LED Street Lighting

The delivery of the LED residential lighting replacement programme is underway where around 24,000 standard lighting units will be upgraded to LED lighting throughout the city. The lighting units will be centrally monitored and controlled so that the Street Lighting Team will be automatically aware of outages and will also be able to control lighting levels as required. As of the end of September 2021, approximately 1,000 units had been installed.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
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